WIC to start using new electronic card system. PAGE 2
A. Samoans sue for birthright citizenship. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Codel served its purpose'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) separately said that the congressional delegation to the CNMI led by a U.S. senator on Tuesday served its purpose by giving a peek into the progress the CNMI has made since it started transitioning to full U.S. citizen employment in 2008.

Torres and Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in separate interviews yesterday that the congressional delegation, or codel, led by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), served its purpose of providing a glimpse of the NMI situation since the transition period of 2008.

See CODEL on Page 4

Tour operator believes in sustainability

A tour guide shows how trash bags are easily filled with trash picked up along the steps of the Grotto.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Tour operators in the Commonwealth make the industry roll, being at the forefront of showing tourists what they originally saw on postcards, websites, and blogs about the beauty of the CNMI.

The CNMI's tourist sites are the core products of a tour operator's

See TOUR on Page 4

2 indictments vs 5 men in meth "lab" cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government filed Tuesday two separate indictments against five men who were arrested in connection with a crackdown on an alleged clandestine laboratory that made crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Charged in the first indictment are

See METH on Page 4

Micronesia: Scenic island-hopping and a lesson in letting go

By NICOLE EVATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

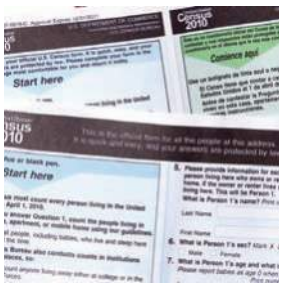
POHNPEI STATE, Micronesia (AP)—I'm panicked and soaked as smiling locals fish me out of the bay on the island of Pohnpei in Micronesia. "Trip of a lifetime," I sarcastically thought as we made our way back to land with an upside-down kayak, our cameras and cellphone ruined.

How did I end up drenched, emo-

See MICRONESIA on Page 4

AP
This Oct. 26, 2017 photo shows the spectacular ruins of the ancient city of Nan Madol in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

INSIDE



NATION
The decision to ask people about their citizenship in the 2020 census worries Democrats.
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ASIA
Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping sought to portray strong ties between the two allies.
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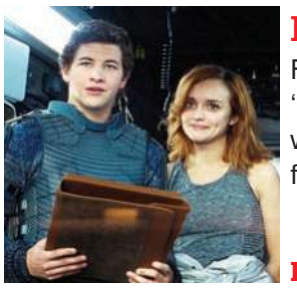

LIFE & STYLE
For Steven Spielberg, "Ready Player One" was a great escape from reality.
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EDUCATION ACT OF 2017 CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs House Bill 20-88 into Public Law 20-48 yesterday morning, effectively repealing and re-enacting "The Education of Act of 1988" and witnessed by CNMI Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada and vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio. Effectively, the new statute will allow for the inclusion of Early Intervention, the concept of the "whole child" and to repeal the laws that are redundant in the Education Act of 1988, among others.

Local

WIC to start using new electronic card system

This April, the CNMI Women, Infant, and Child Program, more popularly known as WIC, will launch the Electronic Benefit Transfer system, or eWIC, that replaces paper checks with a card for families that participate in the WIC program.

This transition from paper to an electronic platform significantly strengthens the program, increases efficiencies, and improves the WIC experience for participants and stakeholders.

WIC families will be able to shop conveniently and check out confidently.

WIC stores will experience faster turnaround times for reimbursement and WIC staff will have unprecedented access to data to improve the administration of the program.

The CNMI WIC Program will complete the transition by this summer, two years sooner than the October 2020 mandate of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

WIC is a federally funded supplemental nutrition and education program that serves almost 3,200 women, infants, and children each month throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

It receives its funding through USDA and this transition to eWIC is required by U.S. Public Law 111-296 or the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. "All this would not have been possible without the support and leadership of the Arizona WIC program, lead partner for the HANDS consortium which includes Arizona, CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, and Navajo Nation," said Erin Angela Camacho, the WIC program administrator. "For every step of this project [and any project we do], we have been at the table to provide input and to make sure that the product would meet the needs of the CNMI. We have been a part of the consortium since 2008."

WIC families can also download the EzWIC app for Apple and Android devices. This will allow them to search the WIC Food List, scan items in the store to see if they are WIC approved, and check their current food benefit balance.

"CHCC is so excited to start this roll out that brings convenience to families when they shop for the food items that are nutritious and essential for pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children," said CHCC CEO Esther L. Muña.

The WIC program provides healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and connections to community services for income-eligible women who are pregnant and postpartum, infants, and children up to 5 years old.

In fiscal year 2017, 14 CNMI WIC-approved grocery stores took in $3.2 million from WIC shoppers.

For more information about the WIC program, call them at (670) 664-4084/4083. ***(PR)***

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*Some conditions apply. See store for details.

‘Gender inequality not seen in CNMI workforce’

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All over America, women in the workforce are still treated unfairly, either paid less than men or are not given the opportunity to take on higher positions. Fortunately, CNMI women do not face this type of discrimination and are valued in the workforce.

This positive came to light at the 5th Annual Women’s Summit last Monday and Tuesday, with a panelist taking on the current standing of women in the CNMI workforce.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, a common issue faced in the United States is gender inequality in the workforce. That means many women in the U.S. are paid less, even if they have the same qualifications as their male counterparts.

The CNMI fortunately, she said, is an exemption because women are paid and treated equally in the workforce and even at home.

“In the CNMI, I don’t think it [inequality in the workforce] is a big problem…women really do get the same pay as men, not like in the States,” she said. “We are incredibly blessed that the women have a voice here…and that’s a really great thing.”

Benavente is extremely happy with the way women are treated in the CNMI workforce.

“We [women] are very much empowered, and we are very much respected in our workforce,” she said.

According to Office of Personnel Management director Sid Seman, 48 percent of the CNMI workforce is composed of women and the remaining 52 percent are men. As far as wages are concerned, Seman said that women are paid the same amount as their male counterparts who have the same qualifications.

“[Women are] pretty much equal to the men. I don’t see a ‘boys club’ that you would normally see in the States where they don’t want the women to be higher than them but I don’t see that here,” he said.

Seman pointed out that women currently fill many of the high positions in the CNMI.

CK drain red-flagged

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality has red-flagged the Chalan Kanoa District 2 drain and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this site contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

BECQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan’s recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(BECQ)***

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MICRONESIA

From Page 1

tionally drained and out a few thousand dollars in electronics in this remote island nation, one might ask? More importantly, here's why it was totally worth it.

MAJURO

My husband and I traveled to Micronesia on United's Island Hopper route from Honolulu to Guam. First stop, 4 ½ hours from Hawaii: Majuro (MAH-zhu-row), a coral atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

We shopped for groceries for a stay on a nearby private island but ended up mostly with items like pasta and cereal; fresh produce was scarce and overpriced. After a 30-minute boat ride to Eneko Island, we spent a few days completely alone, kayaking and chasing colorful fish through turquoise water. Evenings offered breathtaking sunsets, stargazing and cooking our carby meals.

Highlights of Majuro included the tiny Alele Museum featuring Marshallese folk art, history and stick charts used for nautical navigation. Handicraft stores downtown sell traditional, intricately woven baskets and bags. Hotel Robert Reimers offers a solid restaurant and accommodations starting at $45. Pricier lagoon-front cabins are a worthy splurge.

For a pampered vacation, the private Bikendrik Island offers two charming bungalows stocked with cognac and Grand Marnier, three-course meals and occasional visits from the lagoon pet, Oscar the octopus. Rates start at $570.

POHNPEI

A short flight west (with a quick stop in Kwajalein Atoll, a U.S. military base where you cannot deplane) took us to Pohnpei, a lush, mountainous island and one of four states making up the Federated States of Micronesia.

Pohnpei's capital, Kolonia, has souvenir shops, remnants of a historic Spanish wall and a helpful tourism office. Don't leave without a colorful floral skirt, an island fashion staple. Arnold's Restaurant offers tasty American fare and Grace's Special Bakery on Nantuelek street serves sweet treats.

An hour's drive took us to Pohnpei's crown jewel: the ancient city of Nan Madol. Picture 13th century ruins rivaling the splendor and lore of Cambodia's Angkor Wat or Peru's Machu Picchu, minus the crowds. As with most of this trip, we were the only tourists.

Kepirohi Waterfall is a gorgeous cascading pyramid near Nan Madol. A hard-to-spot sign on Circle Island road marks a turn-off where you pay a $3 entrance fee.

The waterfront Mangrove Bay Hotel has scenic views and a restaurant serving exclusively sushi and chicken wings. The onsite Pohnpei Surf Club can arrange water excursions and guided Nan Madol tours.

To reach some of the 100-plus man-made islets, you can pay local families a few dollars per person to cross their land. But we opted to navigate Nan Madol's shallow channels by kayak. After winding through dense mangroves for about 30 minutes, the dark, twisty jungle opened into vast, clear-blue ocean. Massive shadows darted around our wobbling vessel—stingrays from a nearby sanctuary.

At this point, I noticed the kayak inching lower into the sea. But we were by then an hour from the marine institute that runs the small boat rental business. We had no choice but to carry on.

CODEL

From Page 1

The codel, which consisted of eight members, stayed only a day in the CNMI. The group also visited Tinian and Guam.

"We tried to put in as much as we can in the limited time she was here. Unfortunately, some of the requests that we made were not accommodated because of the time frame, but we tried to squeeze in as much as we can for her to appreciate what we have here," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres hosted a closed-door lunch meeting with the delegation, where the group also met members of the CNMI private sector and CNMI leadership at the Surf Club.

"Overall, I think the codel turned out really well. She got to see the most critical parts of Saipan as well and see how we're doing as a whole," added Torres, who did not specify where the delegation went.

Murkowski was accompanied on this trip by her husband, Verne Martell; Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield; Delegate Aumua Amata C. Radewagen (R-AS); U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources senior Republican counsel Isaac Edwards; congressional staffer Emy Lesofski; U.S. Department of Defense's Commander Jeremy Lyon; and Sablan.

Saipan Tribune attempted to obtain the full itinerary of the codel; however it was classified information and outside the Governor's Office's control, press secretary Kevin Bautista explained.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that Murkowski told him she should have come to the CNMI sooner. He added that Murkowski wishes to have spent at least three days here.

"She really enjoyed herself here," said Sablan. "We've been trying to get [Murkowski] here since February 2017. It was almost a yes from her, but something came up so [it did not push through]," he said.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), believes that, unlike a previous codel last year that critics described as a windshield tour of the CNMI, Murkowski's codel was able to mingle with members of the NMI private sector and CNMI leadership through lunch.

"In this particular codel, Sen. Murkowski took an extra step that was missing in the previous one. The codel took the time to meet with the stakeholders and the members of the business community over lunch," said Demapan, who was at the lunch meeting.

"In her discussions and dialogue with the different members of the business community, Murkowski has the opportunity to feel the pulse of the community; to feel what our struggles are; and to know just how beneficial her legislation is going to be to the workforce," he said.

S. 2325, or the U.S. Workforce Act, seeks to reset the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000; provide additional validity to long-time CW workers; and extend the CNMI transitional period, along with programs under it such as the CW program and E-2C investor program, to fiscal year 2029.

Murkowski introduced the legislation on Jan. 19, 2018, while Sablan simultaneously introduced the exact same legislation in the U.S. House. S.2325 is now on the U.S. Senate calendar for action.

TOUR

From Page 1

business. To help preserve, maintain, and achieve environmental sustainability, some of them simply do it by cleaning.

According to Saipan Adventures operations manager Jonathan Kapileo, every tour activity that they have is coupled with a cleanup campaign.

The company has been operating for two years now, doing hiking, biking, snorkeling, off-roading, and star watching. Its market is a mix of Japanese and Korean tourists.

"We tour them around the island every single day," he said. "As much as possible, our operation is all about tourists exploring, discovering, and enjoying the islands. It's all fun but we also integrate environmental awareness and sustainability by picking up trash when we see it."

Encouraging tourists to be proactive and environmentally aware is what makes their tour packages extra fun. To date, they have been cleaning tour sites such as the Grotto, Forbidden Island, and Obyan Beach, to name a few.

"We appreciate that we are able to use and share these sites. We try to return the favor by keeping it clean, helping maintain the place," he said. "Aside from picking up trash, we also put up signs after getting permission from government agencies like the Marianas Visitors Authority and Department of Public Lands. We do the cleanup drives when we have customers and even without, when our schedule allows us to."

One of the cleanup drives of Saipan Adventures at the Grotto, a famous site in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion is very pleased that tour operators practice what they have learned in the guide certification program.

"When the MVA launched our tour guide certification program last year in partnership with Northern Marianas College, one of our main goals was to educate all guides on environmental issues, to instill pride and a sense of ownership in the work that they do to inform visitors," he said.

"We are very pleased to see partners like Saipan Adventures, Tasi Tours, the Japan-Saipan Travel Association and others take an active role in beautifying the CNMI. This is only the beginning and we expect to see more participation from other tourism stakeholders in the future as we encourage them to be more active in cleaning up our sites and ensuring our guests are educated," he added

MVA also has an ongoing program called "Beautify My Marianas."

"The program grants $100 for every mile of roadside cleaned or $100 for every tourist site cleaned and this is open to all residents and tourists in the CNMI. It has become popular lately with student organizations and church groups," he said.

"It's a bit dismaying that we have this type of program to control the litter situation when we shouldn't have to. I hope everybody learns to clean up after ourselves and let law enforcement officials do their job to aggressively enforce anti-litter laws so that the public will feel the pain when they litter," he added.

Kapileo said the patience and work put into cleaning the sites result in bigger rewards.

"We are very proud of the small things we do that yield big rewards for us and especially for the environment. When we started, we put ash trays and no smoking signs in one of the sites, which had hundreds of cigarette filters lying on the ground. When we came back the next day, we counted the cigarette filters and it was down to just 20," he said.

"Assigning designated areas for people who smoke cigarette made a good impact. There are kids who go on tour and walk around the sites and we don't want them to inhale the smoke. Guiding visitors to designated areas helps a lot," he added.

In voluntarily cleaning these sites, big or small deeds are considered progress.

"We tell our guests 'what you bring in, you must take out.' Nobody wants to visit places and swim in waters that are filled with trash," he said. "The CNMI is a paradise and we encourage them to visit again and again but also [let them know] of the regulations in maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of the islands."

METH

From Page 1

Vincent David Cabrera Jr.; also known as Bong; Eugene Blas Repeki Jr., also known as Uncle; Rick Urumelog Omar Jr., also known as Boboy; and Sidney Capelle Kani.

Charged in the second indictment is David Muna Sablan.

The first indictment charged Cabrera, Repeki, Omar, and Kani with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine, and conspiracy to possess chemicals, products, and equipment to manufacture methamphetamine.

In addition, the first indictment charged Repeki and Kani with distribution of methamphetamine, and manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine on premises where a child is present and resides.

The first indictment also charged Repeki and Omar with distribution of methamphetamine, and manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine on premises where a child is present and resides.

The first indictment added a charge of maintaining a drug-involved premises against Cabrera.

Cabrera, Repeki, Omar, and Kani allegedly manufactured and distributed methamphetamine from July 1, 2017, to Feb. 25, 2018. The four allegedly had equipment, chemicals, and materials to make crystal meth such as pseudoephedrine, lithium batteries, cold packs, iodized salt, Iye, lighter fluid, water bottles, and coffee filters.

Last Feb. 1, Repeki and Kani allegedly manufactured and distributed "ice" on premises in which a child is present and resides.

Last Feb. 8, Repeki and Omar allegedly manufactured and distributed "ice" on premises in which a child is present and resides.

Last Feb. 24 through Feb. 25, Cabrera allegedly rented and maintained a room at the Saipan Vegas Resort Hotel for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, or using "ice" using the "shake and bake" method.

The second indictment charged David Muna Sablan with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine; conspiracy to possess chemicals, products, and equipment to manufacture methamphetamine; and endangering a human life

Last March 15, Sablan allegedly conspired with others to manufacture "ice" and to possess equipment, chemicals, products, and materials used to manufacture methamphetamine.

While illegally manufacturing the "ice" and transporting its materials, including chemicals, Sablan allegedly created a substantial risk of harm to human life.

Authorities said Sablan threw a backpack and bag that contained chemicals and items used in making "ice" during a police chase in Garapan last March 15. Four police officers complained of nausea and dizziness and vomited after inhaling the chemicals.

At yesterday's arraignment, Sablan, who appeared with court-appointed counsel Janet H. King, pleaded not guilty.

Jury trial will be on May 31, 2018.

ABE GRADUATES NMC
Graduates of the Adult Basic Education Program at Northern Marianas College on Rota pose for a group photo with Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, fifth from left, and Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, fourth from left. This is the second cohort of graduates that completed the Adult Basic Education program since the program was re-introduced one year ago. Also in the photo is Martin Mendiola, NMC Rota center executive director.

NMC Charter Day to have room for car show

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Planning Committee is inviting car enthusiasts to sign up and participate in the NMC Charter Day Car Show on April 13, 2018, at the NMC Charter Day celebration in As Terlaje.

The committee welcomes car owners in the following categories: 2-door, 4-door, 4x4, trucks, cafe and cruiser bikes, and classics. Cars that do not fall under these categories can still be featured but must be specified on the registration sheet.

To register, email charter.day@marianas.edu to receive an online registration form. The deadline to register is on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, no later than 4pm. Interested participants are encouraged to apply early due to limited space. On the day of the event, check-in will be at 3pm by Building W.

The Charter Day Car Show is a non-competitive event and registration for a slot is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The NMC Charter Day celebration is an annual celebration that commemorates the establishment of the college in 1981. It is one of the largest celebrations in the CNMI and will include live entertainment, competitions, and other activities for the whole family. This year's event will take place on Friday, April 13, 2018, from 4pm to 10pm at the NMC south field in As Terlaje.

For more information about the car show, NMC Charter Day, competitions, entertainment, or vendor information, contact charter.day@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Judge finds charges against alleged 'ice' trafficker to be multiplicitous

Three of the eight charges filed against a woman suspected as a distributor of methamphetamine or "ice" have been found multiplicitous.

In Biyu Hu's case, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan found that three counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance are multiplicitous as to three counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, at least in part because defendant could not sell the methamphetamine during the controlled-buys to the CNMI government's confidential informant without being in actual possession of "ice."

Bogdan, however, emphasized that the same conclusion cannot be made for the 7th and 8th counts charging Yu with trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance because they relate to a separate search of Hu's residence and were not the result of her direct effort to sell "ice" to an informant.

"The underlying facts and circumstances of that search are more legally equivocal, especially given the amount of methamphetamine allegedly discovered," said Bogdan in granting Hu's motion to consolidate the multiplicitous charges.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski is counsel for Hu. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds argued as counsel for the government at the hearing.

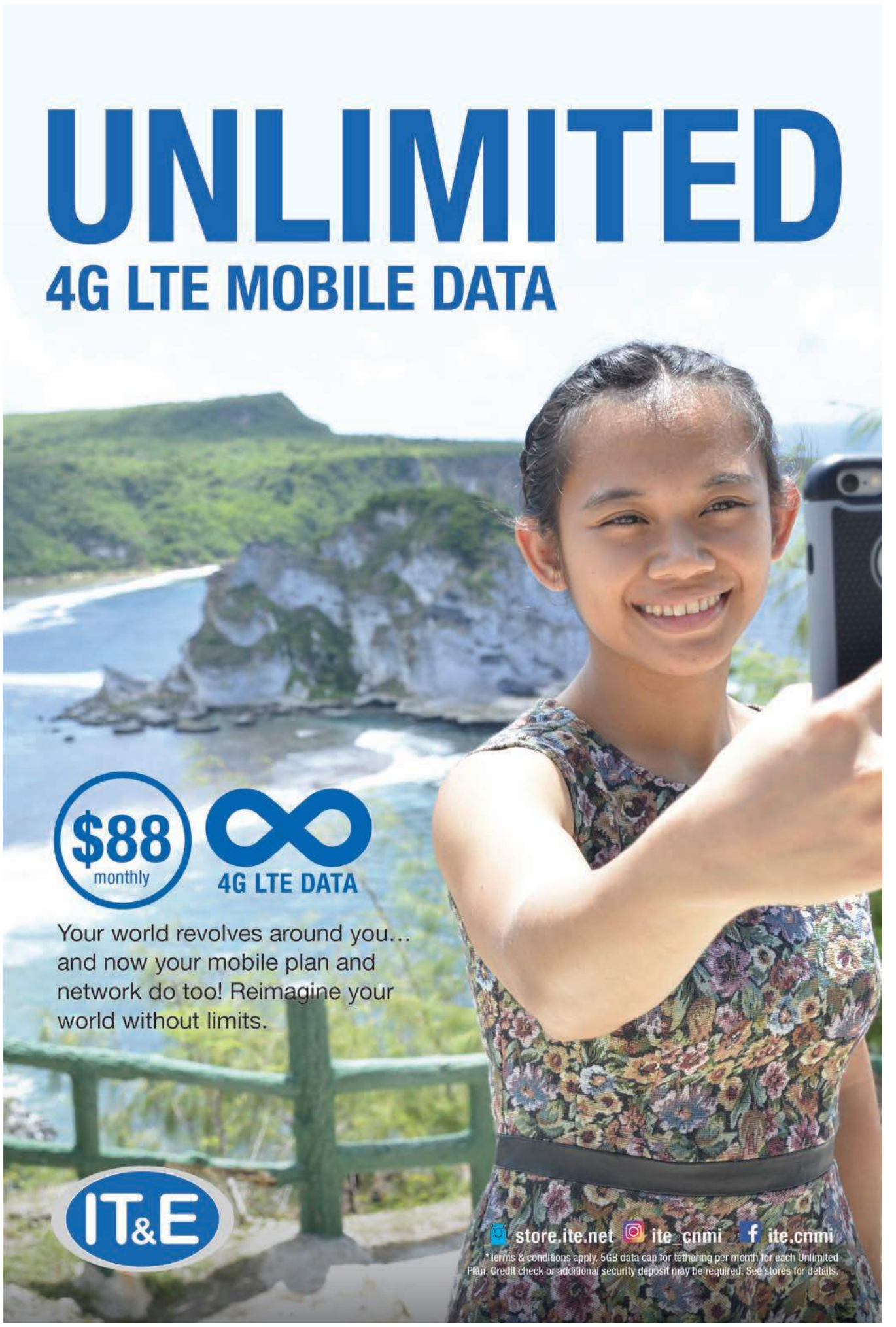
Bogdan ordered the government to amend the information, electing between three counts of trafficking or three counts of illegal possession.

With respect to the 7th and 8th counts charging Hu with trafficking and illegal possession, Bogdan said a violation of Hu's constitutional rights is not likely to occur if the jury is informed at trial that the Commonwealth charged her with both possession and trafficking of a controlled substance for the "ice" allegedly discovered at her home.

Instead, the judge noted, this search stands alone and distinct from the controlled buys and could conceivably—depending on the amount of methamphetamine proven to exist at trial—result in either simple possession conviction or result in a trafficking conviction under the rebuttal presumption of trafficking option created in a statute.

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Hu in Dandan in May 2017 for allegedly selling and yielding 100 grams of "ice" worth $40,000 to $50,000 during "buy-walk operations" on Saipan.

Hu, 36, a female but known as Brother, pleaded not guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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Saipan
Rota
Tinian

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SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Triple J is hole-in-one sponsor

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors is one of the hole-in-one sponsors for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2018 Golf Tournament slated for Saturday, April 14, 2018. From the left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Jill M. Arenovski, Triple J Saipan, Inc. HR director Frank Ada, Triple J Motors Saipan general manager Randy Steele, Triple J Motors sales associate Justine Marie Chan, Saipan Chamber of Commerce coordinator Christine S. Tadeo, and Triple J Motors sales associates Shae Stovell and Manning Salas.

The 2018 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament is sure to be the best one yet, with different skill levels having a chance to win cash prizes totaling $3,200 for each of the two categories: Team Gross and Team Double Peoria.

There will also be cash prizes for closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and accurate drive contests.

An additional perk is a chance to win a new Mazda MX-5 Miata convertible roadster, courtesy of Triple J Motors as a hole-in-one prize at Hole 3.

"The total value is $33,995," said Randy Steele, Triple J Motors general manager.

"Triple J Saipan, Inc. is always up to help," said Jay Jones, Triple J Enterprises senior vice president.

In addition to prizes, golfers will enjoy complimentary swag bags. On-course snacks and refreshments will be provided throughout the day of play.

The tournament is slated for Saturday, April 14, 2018. Showtime is at 6am with a shotgun start at 7am. The format is a two-person scramble. The registration fee is $130/ per person. Chamber members will enjoy a discounted fee of $120/ member. A banquet and raffle will immediately follow the close of the tournament.

Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipan-chamber.com, at the Chamber office, and at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. ***(PR)***

Veterans, military service members, their families, and friends are invited to —

The 2nd Northern Marianas Veterans Resource Fair 2018

hosted by

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

ROTA- April 4th, 2018, Mayor's Conference Hall, 9:30am - 12:30pm
SAIPAN- April 5th, 2018, Multipurpose Center, 5:30pm -8:30pm
TINIAN- April 6th, 2018, Tinian Library, 2:30pm – 5:30pm

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Contact your congressional office at 323-2647 (Saipan), 433-2647 (Tinian), or 532-2647 (Rota) or email kilili@mail.house.gov for more information.

NMC Charter Day talent contest seeks participants

As part of its Charter Day celebration, Northern Marianas College is inviting participants to audition for Proa Factor, the celebration's talent competition.

Singers, dancers, dance groups, slam poets, musicians, bands, DJs, and other talented performers are encouraged to audition.

In previous years, NMC has hosted Marianas Idol and Battle of the Bands at the NMC Charter Day celebration, but this year all categories of performers are invited to showcase their talents at NMC's second Proa Factor.

Interested individuals or groups must be 12 and older to compete. Top contestants will perform during Charter Day on April 13, 2018.

Entry forms for the contest are due by Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 4pm. Live auditions will be held on Friday, April 6, 2018, at 6pm at NMC in room D1. Those who are interested can email charter.day@marianas.edu for an entry form.

All bands and dance groups of more than eight members must submit a video recording of their audition to compete. A video submission is strictly for bands and large dance groups only. The video submission deadline is on Thursday, April 5, 2018, and the video can be sent to charter.day@marianas.edu.

The Charter Day festivities will kick off at 4pm and will continue until 10pm at the NMC south field in As Terlaje on Friday, April 13, 2018. The event will feature various entertainment and competitions. Numerous vendors will also be selling food and drinks, as well as hosting game booths.

As part of its commitment to promoting healthier health habits, sugary drinks will not be sold at Charter Day. This includes sodas or other drinks with high sugar content. Water will be available for purchase.

Contact kenneth.gabrido@marianas.edu or call 237-6770 for more details about the PROA Factor Talent competition. For more information about Charter Day email charter.day@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Cheers to the most wonderful and magical two years and looking forward to more sweet adventures with you *anak*. Happiest second birthday, Colin. We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and *Kuya* James. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc.

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

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Date: April 09, 2018 at 12:30 PM

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4 The benefits mentioned above are only offered on or with a Complete Checking Debit Mastercard ("Debit Card"), which you can only have if you open a Complete Checking Account. Additional restrictions apply. The benefit include cellphone or other types of insurance that require use of the Debit Card. Registration at www.fhb.com/completedebit is required for certain benefits (credit score, credit monitoring & activity alerts, additional ID monitoring and ID theft – family coverage, etc.). First Hawaiian Bank and Mastercard reserve the right to cancel or change the benefits at any time without prior notice. If your Complete Checking Account and/or Debit Card is cancelled or closed for any reason, access to the benefits may be terminated at any time without notice. Please review your Guide to Benefits at www.fhb.com/completedebit for detailed information.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of March 29, 2018
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Fidel Mendiola Jr.	03/02/2018 RSm-2018-X-0228	Shoreline Beautification	Rota	Shoreline	Approved* 3/08/2018
2. Seventh Sense International, Inc. dba Divesite With	3/16/2018 S/TLRm-2005-X-014	Marine Sports SCUBA	Saipan & Tinian Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 3/20/2018
3. Mei Jun Chen	3/15/2018 SPI-2018-X-047	Land clearing & Installation of Perimeter Chain link Fence	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 3/27/2018
4. Colorful Ocean, LLC	3/21/2018 SPI-2018-X-050	Staging & Stockpiling Of Construction Materials	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 3/27/2018
5. Saipan Sun Company	3/21/2018 SPI-2018-X-049	Drydock MV Pacific Quest #1	South Seaplane Ramp	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 3/27/2018
6. Auto Marine, Inc.	3/22/2018 SLRm-98-X-224	Marine Sports Reef Walker Operation	East Of the Garapan Light House	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 3/26/2018
7. World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort	3/22/2018 SMS-2004-X-121	Second Floor Extension- 10 Additional Guest Rooms	Susupe	Major Siting Amendment 2018-1	Under Review
8. Commonwealth Ports Authority	03/26/2018 SPI-2018-X-053	Marine Fender Replacement Project	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 3/27/2018
9. AC USA, Inc. dba Dive House Anclah	3/26/2018 SLR-2018-X-052	Marine Sports SCUBA	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 3/27/2018
10. The Palette Inc.	3/26/2018 SMS-2018-X-051	Capital Hill Wonderland	Capital Hill	Major Siting	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations require all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

A. Samoans sue for birthright citizenship

HONOLULU (AP)—American Samoa residents living in Utah filed a lawsuit Tuesday in a second attempt to gain citizenship status for residents of the U.S. territory in the South Pacific.

Lead plaintiff John Fitisemanu, and others born in American Samoa, are petitioning U.S. courts for citizenship under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which confers citizenship at birth to anyone born in the United States.

Although American Samoa became a U.S. territory in 1900, those born there aren't granted citizenship, and are instead considered U.S. nationals.

Under that status, they cannot vote, run for office, sponsor family members for immigration to the U.S., or serve on a jury, despite paying American taxes. They are issued special U.S. passports that say: "This bearer is a United States national and not a United States citizen."

Plaintiffs also claim they have faced restrictions when traveling abroad, at times obtaining special permits and paying fees that wouldn't apply to U.S. citizens.

Fitisemanu, who lives in Utah, has even "been discouraged from applying for certain federal and state jobs that list U.S. citizenship as an eligibility requirement, diminishing his employment opportunities," according to court documents.

"If someone has a birth certificate showing they were born on U.S. soil, they shouldn't have to jump through any more hoops to be recognized as a U.S. citizen," said Neil Weare, president and founder of nonprofit Equally American, the attorney leading the lawsuit.

In 2016, the Supreme Court declined to reconsider a ruling from a lower court preserving American Samoa's status as the only U.S. territory without automatic claim to citizenship.

American Samoans can pursue naturalized citizenship, but the lawsuit says it is a "lengthy, costly, and burdensome" process. Those born in the territory can claim citizenship at birth if one of their parents is a U.S. citizen.

American Samoa consists of seven South Pacific islands located 2,600 miles (4,184 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii. The islands are home to about 55,000 residents, most of which live in or near the capital of Pago Pago.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO. 1
March 27, 2018

Dpw18-IFB-012; Supply and Delivery of a Front Mower for the Department of Public Works, Saipan
Due to non-submission of bids for DPW18-IFB-012 – Supply and Delivery of a Front Mower, the Secretary of Public Works and the Director of Procurement and Supply wishes to extend the IFB submission date for another one (1) weeks.

1. General: the following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawing shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your Proposal to rejection on the affected item(s)/services(s).

2. Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW18-IFB-012."** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building 1301, Saipan MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., March 26, 2018 **is changed to read 9:00 a.m., local time April 6, 2018.**

3. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, April 4, 2018 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to **procurement@pticom.com is changed to read 9:00 a.m., local time, April 17, 2018.**

4. For Bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 26, 2018 **is changed to read April 6, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 4, 2018 **is changed to read April 17, 2018.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of bid.

All other requirements of the Invitation to Bid the project package shall remain as stated.

/s/ James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P & S

END OF ADDENDUM NO.1

TO: RACHEL T. F. DELEON GUERRERO and APRIL LYNN P. RIOS

You are in default in your Promissory Noted dates September 26, 2013 (addendum dated March 25, 2014), secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:
Lot no. 011 G 1302, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 931 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check no. 011 G 24, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 96-2567, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: September 26, 2013; $64,152.00
(c) Amount due for principal: $11,307.67 as of June 1, 2017
(d) Amount due for interest: $2,811.91 as of June 1, 2017
(e) Daily accruing interest: $2.40

If the principal, interest, and late charges $14,119.58, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un komple i kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Septembre 26, 2013 (addendum gi Matso 25, 2014), ni afabobot I Mortagage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortagage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeneň (mortgaged):
Sito numiro 011 G 1302, ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 931 kuadrao metro, mas pat menus, ni anok gi DLS Check numino 011 G 24, gi Disiembre 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File numiro 96-2567, guihi i deskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasion.
(b) I kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empepeňa: Septembre 26, 2013; $64,152.00
(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $11,307.67 asta ki Juñio 1, 2017
(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $52,811.91 asta ki Juñio 1, 2017
(e) Interes kada dia: $2.40

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $14,119.58 yan i resanable na apas abugado pot $500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), yan siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeňa guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yun kontra minagaget-ňa pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i kata-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao i na'an yan address i akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na kata para u ma na'kesiňa ma rikohi i dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siňa bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi rehoki para este i dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
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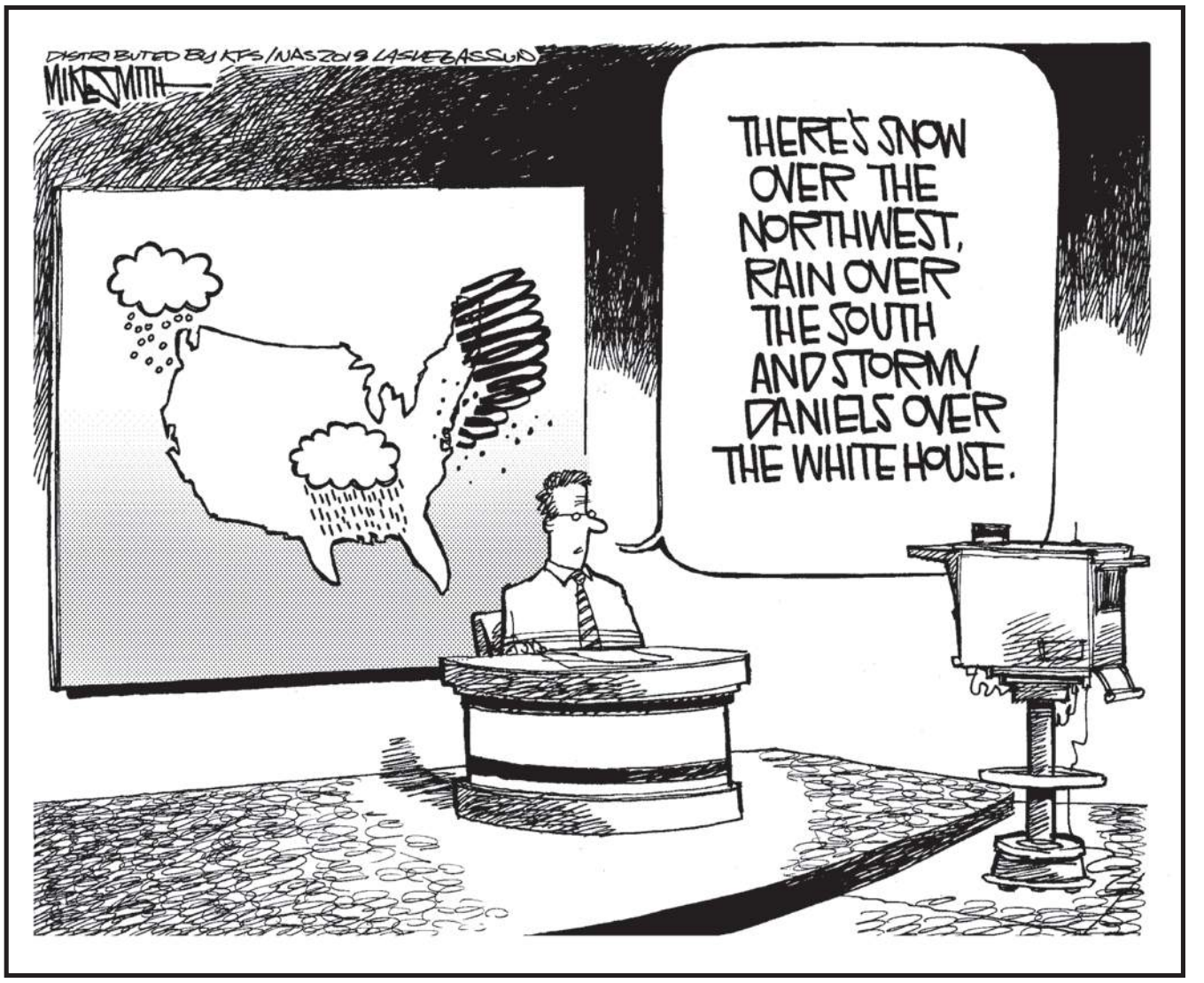
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MIKE SMITH
THERE'S SNOW OVER THE NORTHWEST, RAIN OVER THE SOUTH AND STORMY DANIELS OVER THE WHITE HOUSE.

EDITORIAL

Will you ever trust Facebook again?

Facebook is losing friends fast.

Its favorability rating—how well people like the social media giant—has plunged 28 percentage points in the last five months, according to a new Axios-commissioned poll.

The Federal Trade Commission confirmed Monday that it is investigating whether Facebook is living up to an earlier agreement to keep some user information private.

Cook County is piling on too. The county is suing Facebook and the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica—founded by Donald Trump supporters—for allegedly violating a state fraud law. The suit accuses Cambridge of using improperly gained Facebook data to influence voter behavior.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has profusely apologized for the Cambridge scandal. He's even hinted at inviting government regulation.

No wonder Zuckerberg is floundering. His company and its enormous reach are products of Facebook's inventiveness and its users' trust. Until now this enterprise hasn't, though, had to think much about important values: character, integrity, ethics. So as millions of us in recent days have squawked about Facebook's use of the data we provide, many of those inside the company must be surprised to learn that users feel betrayed.

This episode is forcing Facebook to do what it hasn't done before: admit that those users, perhaps naively, see it not as a purveyor but as a guardian.

Is the Facebook face-plant a blip or a trend? That is, will distressed users dial back or delete their accounts? That depends on whether Facebook users now begin to think of the site as Big Brother, not Big Friend. We imagine that millions of Facebook users are only vaguely aware of how the "free" service makes money—by selling ads and trading in users' personal information. Many are asking: What am I sharing with Facebook and what do I really want to share?

The digerati long have realized that whatever they post on Facebook or anywhere else, whatever they email or text, exits their sphere of control. Those keyboard strikes enter a shadowy domain where it can be mined by hackers, sold by scammers, exhumed by employers, entered as evidence by prosecutors. Beware, everyone on the internet: Free isn't usually free. And privacy as all of us imagined it is in shreds.

Not all is lost, though. Not yet, anyway. Digital systems can be better designed not only to satisfy users and advertisers, but also to ensure ethical use of huge troves of data gathered on millions if not billions of people. Not enough of that is happening. " ... Technical systems are today being built with minimal concern for (ethical) compliance and a total disregard for the downstream consequences of decades of identifiable data being collected on the babies being born into the most complicated information ecology that has ever existed," writes University of Oregon associate philosophy professor Colin Koopman in The New York Times.

There's a lesson here, and a warning, not only for Facebook, but the next Facebook, and other web entrepreneurs.

See FACEBOOK on Next Page

Long before Stormy Daniels, there was Tempest Storm

By JOSHUA C. KENDALL
Los Angeles Times

Joshua C. Kendall is the author of First Dads: Parenting and Politics from George Washington to Barack Obama. *He is writing a book about how the #MeToo movement will affect our view of presidential history. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

As Americans consider Stormy Daniels' story of her alleged 2006 affair with President Trump, we might want to acknowledge that she isn't the first adult entertainer to reportedly hook up with a future president. In 1955, the politician was Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy and the other woman was a stripper named Tempest Storm. The different manner in which Americans have digested these parallel tales reveals a lot about how our nation has evolved—and not—over the last half-century.

Tempest Storm, born Annie Blanche Banks in Eastman, Ga., was an internationally famous burlesque star by her mid-20s and headlined feature films such as "French Peep Show" and "Striptease Girl." She first encountered Kennedy after a performance at the Casino Royale in Washington.

She later wrote in her memoir that she had no idea who Kennedy was and had little interest in talking with him initially. But she was taken by the senator's "stunning good looks," and said their sexual relationship began the next evening. She said their occasional trysts, which ended well before he became president, typically took place at the Mayflower Hotel. According to Storm, who is now 90, Kennedy confided "that he was not happily married, that Jackie was cold toward him."

The largely male Washington press corps looked the other way then and likewise kept Kennedy insulated from sexual scandal during his presidency. Not until 1975, when the name of his mistress Judith Campbell popped up during a congressional hearing, did most Americans realize Kennedy had been unfaithful to his wife. Still, when Campbell wrote her well-documented 1977 memoir about the multi-year affair, Kennedy loyalists did their best to discredit and degrade her.

Tempest Storm's 1987 memoir got similar dismissive treatment. The mainstream press ignored it as undignified gossip. The tide turned only when several academic Kennedy biographers acknowledged that her story meshed with their research. For instance, in 1955 Kennedy indeed was temporarily living in a suite at the Mayflower Hotel where he also spent intimate evenings with other lovers, including actresses Lee Remick and Audrey Hepburn.

Kennedy's track record as a playboy and philanderer may well have been even worse than Trump's. Remarkably, this information still remains largely buried by the work of countless apologists over the decades—including journalists and biographers who continue to minimize Kennedy's extramarital sexual adventures. Take the fawning 2011 bestseller "Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero" by the MSNBC host Chris Matthews, who has been reprimanded by his network for sexual harassment. According to the TV pundit, after marrying Jackie in 1953, Kennedy simply decided not "to forgo his bachelor pleasures."

But the details are considerably more disturbing. During his presidency, Kennedy engaged in casual sex with dozens of women, including strangers whom aides would procure for him. And while Trump presumably confined his grabbing of women's genitals to his pre-presidential days, Kennedy continued to do so while living in the people's house. As described by biographer Geoffrey Perret, Kennedy "brazenly put his hand up their skirts, propositioned them within minutes of meeting and groped their breasts and buttocks even as he danced with them."

Sometimes a porn star is just a porn star. But for JFK, as for Trump, his inability to resist her allure indicates a much deeper character issue. And yet a romanticized image of Kennedy still survives intact. Even as Americans debate what to make of Trump's reported lover with the weather-themed name, our nostalgia endures for the "Mad Men" era, when lecherous behavior was viewed not as a potential violation of the civil rights of women, but as the right of powerful men.

JFK (decidedly unlike Trump) did have some shining moments as a leader. One was his famous and eloquent speech on civil rights in June 1963. "We are confronted primarily with a moral issue," he said. "It is as old as the Scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution. The heart of the question is ... whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated."

That is still the heart of the question, as the #MeToo movement reminds us.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What else do we need to believe racism exists?

By TIFFANY CAPERS
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

This is an invitation, not an indictment.

It's an invitation to identify a problem so we can begin the work of dismantling the mindsets, beliefs, systems and structures that have us bound.

So here goes: What else do we need to believe racism—in all its various forms—exists?

At this point, to borrow a term from the research community, I am experiencing a version of what researchers describe as "racial battle fatigue." I don't know if it's because of the internalized racism I see, the interpersonal racism, the institutional and structural racism (e.g., digital redlining, school suspension policies), or if I'm weary because people still don't believe that it exists. Being woke is literally making me tired.

Aren't you tired of the debate, too? Frankly, what do you lose if you acknowledge that race plays a role in the inequities many people face? Saying that racism is real doesn't make you a racist. I know sexism exists but it doesn't make me a sexual predator. Claiming racism doesn't exist doesn't make it disappear.

So let's start here: What if we agreed there are policies and practices in organizations and systems that result in disproportionate outcomes for specific groups based on race?

There's a lot of evidence to support this. Just last month, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools released a study, called "Breaking the Link," that shows a relationship between poverty and race and student outcomes. Just last week, a report from the N.C. Justice Center's Education & Law Project declared that CMS is the most racially segregated school district in North Carolina.

Still reluctant? OK. How about a national study, released by Harvard and Stanford this week, that revealed how black boys raised in the wealthiest American families and neighborhoods earn less as adults than whites with similar backgrounds. The study also showed that black boys raised at the top are roughly as likely to fall to the bottom of income earners as they are to remain wealthy, while white boys are nearly five times as likely to remain wealthy.

Even in the same neighborhoods, with parents who earn similar incomes, black boys will fare worse than whites in 99 percent of the country.

The study traced the lives of millions of children. Millions. So when people argue that if one black person "makes it" that's proof racism doesn't exist, it stands to reason that millions of children not "making it" should prove that it does, right?

No.

Because even when there's overwhelming evidence from institutions of higher learning—evidence that says racism and implicit bias are the reason for these outcomes—we still look for alternate truth.

We blame lack of education. We blame single-parenting. We conflate outcomes with poverty. We cite indolence. We blame where people live. We blame political party affiliation. We blame the liberal media. We cite a lack of faith. We fault video games, music, clothing. We blame those experiencing racism for the racism. It's just not the case.

Still disagree?

Then your argument must be that black people, in particular, or people of color in general are inherently inferior. Is that it? That's the very definition of individual racism. And that's tired, too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A simple solution to a complex challenge

I have been reading about how we are floundering with the CW transition and the recent bill for NMTI to become public and why the governor vetoed the bill. The governor is right in that all NMC, PSS, and the CNMI government need to work together on the challenge of replacing our workforce with U.S. citizens. I have already discussed how this can be done and, given the exposure and attention on the issue now, it may sink in that I may be right.

I am confident that three simple steps can resolve our educational efforts for the CW transition because they already worked in Mexico.

The first is to place our efforts under one umbrella because NMC and PSS are autonomous agencies who are not linked by law. However, this proposed plan would only require them to do their part: The creation of a public service program for NMTI, NMC, PSS and all stakeholders (businesses) in the CW transition. The program will require NMTI, NMC, and PSS to offer the program as part of the coursework for graduation. At the high school or GED level, students will be required to perform 900 hours of service and the college students are required 1,200 hours of service.

The public service will be performed in the "career area" selected by the student in this "voluntary program" that will begin at the 10th grade level. The selected career areas will consist of every business and every field of expertise that is now using a CW, requiring the training of a youth(s) to replace a CW worker. For example: If a student wants to become an architect, nurse, or mechanic, they will go to school halfday starting in the 10th grade and work at the site of their chosen career area for free the other half day from the 10th to 12th for three years of service in high school and two to four years of service in college, depending upon the requirement established for the job.

The PSP will give students real-life experience in the workplace that will go toward their graduation credits and employers will get additional help for free in exchange, along with an experienced U.S. employee after the student has completed the required coursework for the job. The PSP will also decrease the teacher workforce numbers for PSS as fewer teachers will be needed. All businesses with CWs will be required to train a student(s) to replace their CW worker, which will be a win-win scenario for the student, the business and the CNMI.

Many of our graduating students are still leaving the CNMI to find a good jobs and careers in the U.S. mainland but this program will make it far more practical for students to remain in the CNMI as they will have a job and career when they graduate from high school and/or NMC by replacing a CW. Virtually every CW job can be covered under the PSP, making it a complete systemic plan for our students and employers.

The only real challenge to creating a public service program is doing the work. There are only three basic steps needed for the implementation of the PSP, which can easily be accomplished if all the stakeholders will buy into the PSP. The three simple tasks require:

1. All stakeholders to work together in creating the CW job categories;

2. The creation of requirements to replace the CW, which will be high school and/or college education;

3. The logistics of getting these students to their jobsite and back home.

NMTI will function pretty much the same, with the additional responsibility of coordinating student job placement and tracking the students and replacement of the CWs for the government.

More importantly, the implementation of the PSP will demonstrate to the federal government that the CNMI has implemented a systemic and perpetual plan to replace as many CWs as possible. We must give our students real hope and chance through a real systemic program. By making the Northern Marianas Trade Institute the lead public institution to serve as the government entity designated as the "intermediary" for the implementation and maintenance of the PSP and training program at NMTI, PSS and NMC it will put the CNMI's transition efforts in education under the critical one umbrella. The PSP and training program is the best possible solution on the table from what I have witnessed in our floundering with the CW transition issue in education and NMTI because it has already proven to be successful. The CNMI would be prudent to adopt this successful plan and I am more than willing to help with the technical issues of implementing it, based on my research of the PSP. I have already made a request to the governor for me to be involved in the meeting he plans on having with NMC and PSS so I can explain the PSP in more detail as a possible solution.

I am confident the PSP and training program will sell itself. There are only three steps to implement the PSP and training program so this is really as simple as 1-2-3!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Chaos at the White House

If, as President Trump says, 'My administration is running like a fine-tuned machine,' how come there's such a huge turnover? It seems there are a lot of loose screws that have to be tightened. Instead of running like a 2018 Cadillac, the current administration sounds more like a 1908 Model-T Ford with disastrous domestic and foreign policies to match! Finally, amidst the firings and resignations of key department heads, President Trump sees it as "new energy" while the rest of America views it as "total chaos" with no end in sight!

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

FACEBOOK

From Page 10

This crisis is still gaining momentum. Lawmakers in Washington and elsewhere clamor for more transparency and greater privacy protections. The European Union is launching a sweeping new data privacy law in May.

Here's an even bigger threat:

Customers aren't guaranteed forever. Many Facebook users are now learning, perhaps for the first time, how they can limit the platform's ability to collect their personal information, how they can curb the ads that track them wherever they go. How they can, heaven forbid, delete their accounts and return to a world without Facebook—that is, as it was before 2004.

Yes, that extreme is fanciful. What's not fanciful is that users of Facebook and similar sites will be asking about those three suddenly relevant values: character, integrity, ethics.

In Slate, former hedge fund analyst Cathy O'Neil writes: "The more processes we automate, the more obvious it will become that algorithms are not inherently fair and objective, and that they need human intervention. At that point the ethics of building algorithms will be taught alongside statistics and computer programming classes."

Sounds like that point is now. Facebook and its peers either embrace ethics and transparency or risk digital shunning.

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LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

In Search of Leadership Lost in a Demagogic Dump

Leadership is strong when one is leading both sides
it moves beyond petty politics or partisan camper
it needs no fawning behavior or false pride
acts with integrity without vanity or vamper.

Leadership requires real respect for the leader
his or her personal life and political intent
leadership can be had without being a tweeter
without temper tantrums or being a malcontent.

Leadership favors no single idea or condition
scorns a narrow minded barely credible creed
its goal is compromise to accomplish its mission
providing guidance to people or a country in need.

Leadership should be solid, respected and commanding
Nurturing strength in democracy without being demanding.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼76°

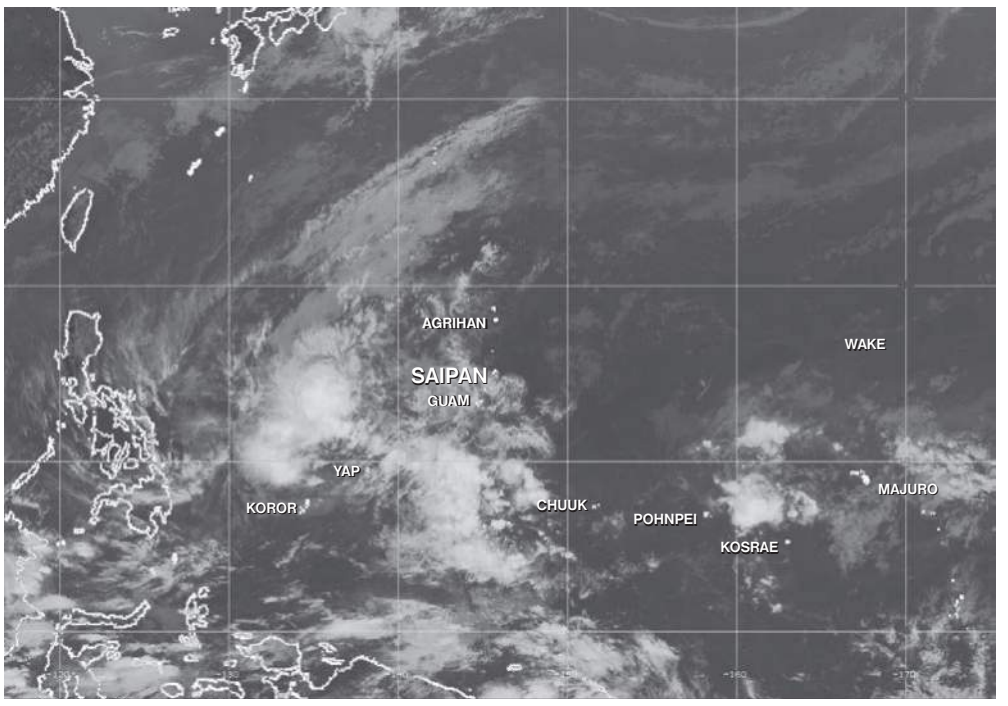
FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲88° ▼76°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:25 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are mostly cloudy across the Marianas this morning, but radar shows only isolated showers. Fresh trade winds and combined seas of 6 to 8 feet are present in the Marianas waters. TD Jelawat is over 600 miles WSW of Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	70° / 43°
Hong Kong	Sunny	77° / 68°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°
London	Rain	52° / 39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 72°
New York	Showers	55° / 48°
Osaka	Sunny	64° / 43°
Paris	Showers	54° / 39°
Busan	Sunny	57° / 45°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°
Salem	Showers	73° / 49°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 43°
Tokyo	Sunny	63° / 45°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 55°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94
12:34 PM	LOW TIDE	0.78
5:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
–	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:24 am	4:27 pm
Friday	-	5:12 am	5:24 pm
Saturday	-	5:57 am	6:19 pm
Sunday	-	6:41 am	7:13 pm
Monday	-	7:23 am	8:06 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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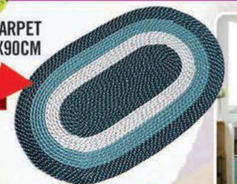

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Business

DESPITE BIG THEFT CASES

Japan embracing cryptocurrencies

TOKYO (AP)—Four years after popular Tokyo-based bitcoin exchange Mt. Gox was hacked and went bankrupt, the case still casts a shadow over the regulatory regime put in place to protect Japan's thriving cryptocurrency market.

Mark Karpeles, the French founder and former CEO of Mt. Gox, says he hopes to recoup the millions lost by his customers in the heist. That's now a possibility, given the surge in bitcoin's value in recent years to some 10 times its earlier value.

"What I'm trying to do is to find the best solution," Karpeles said in a recent interview, "because I believe it is my responsibility as CEO of Mt. Gox."

Mt. Gox still had about 200,000 bitcoins left in a separate storage location after 850,000 disappeared in 2014. Those holdings are managed by court-appointed trustees who have sold 35,000 bitcoins, raising 44 billion yen ($415 million) in cash to reimburse losses from the exchange's failure. Based on today's prices, the remaining bitcoins are worth far more than the estimated $620 million in earlier losses.

The trustees deny claims that sale triggered a recent slight drop in highly volatile bitcoin prices.

After Mt. Gox collapsed, Karpeles was detained for months before being released on 10 million yen ($94,000) bail while awaiting the outcome of his trial for embezzlement and data manipulation, charges unrelated to the hack.

Mt. Gox was a wakeup call for Japan, though the relatively strong regulatory regime set up after the bitcoin dealer has not prevented further hacks. Earlier this year the Tokyo-based Coincheck exchange reported a 58-billion yen ($547 million) loss of a cryptocurrency called NEM due to suspected hacking.

About half the world's bitcoin trading is estimated to be in yen and there are 16 licensed virtual currency exchanges in Japan, where bitcoin owners alone number 2 million to 3 million. That could grow to 10 million this year, said Yuzo Kano, chief executive for BitFlyer, one of Japan's largest licensed cryptocurrency exchanges.

"Japan is now bitcoin's heart, the country that is at the center of its support," said Kano, who helped the government set up its licensing system and other regulations.

Kano heads the Japan Blockchain Association and was recently tapped to head a new organization to beef up regulations, working with the Financial Services Agency.

Financial regulators worldwide are scrambling to catch up with the boom in cryptocurrencies and Japan is treading carefully, seeking to minimize risks while maneuvering to attain global leadership and nurture entrepreneurship in the new financial technology.

Bitcoin has been a legal form of payment in Japan since April 2017, and a handful of major retailers already accept bitcoin payments.

Some governments, such as in China and South Korea, have adopted a more cautious approach, while others, like Switzerland and Canada, are wooing the "miners" whose high-powered computers process the algorithms used to create virtual currency tokens. The U.S. falls somewhere in between.

There have been no arrests for the theft at Coincheck, which has acknowledged that it erred in keeping a stash of the digital money in what's known as a "hot wallet," within reach of hackers. Cybersecurity experts say large amounts of virtual currency should be kept offline, in so-called "cold wallets."

The exchange is reimbursing losses from that heist and strengthening its security.

So far, the cases seem to have done little to discourage Japanese, who have turned to stashing yen at home since banks pay near-zero interest rates, from dabbling in cryptocurrencies.

US, S. Korea overhaul 6-year-old free trade agreement

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration said it has widened U.S. access to South Korea's car market while providing American manufacturers protection from South Korean imports.

The United States and South Korea have reached an agreement to overhaul the 6-year-old U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, senior administration officials said Tuesday, confirming an announcement earlier in Seoul. President Donald Trump had called the original Korea pact a job killer.

The new deal doubles—to 50,000—the cars each U.S. automaker can export annually to South Korea, reduces bureaucratic barriers to American products and extends a 25 percent U.S. tariff on South Korean pickup trucks by 20 years, through 2041.

South Korea escapes America's new 25 percent tariff on imported steel but must accept quotas on steel exports equal to 70 percent of its average annual shipments to the United States from 2015 to 2017.

The senior administration officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the policy ahead of an official announcement.

The United States this month began imposing the steel tariffs, saying imports jeopardized U.S. national security. But it has been suspending the duties on allies like the European Union, Canada and Mexico.

The U.S. Treasury Department is also in talks on a deal to prevent Seoul from deliberately pushing its currency lower to give South Korean exporters a competitive advantage. A formal agreement on currency would be unprecedented - but it would include no enforcement mechanism.

The U.S. trade deficit in goods with South Korea - nearly $23 billion last year - widened after the original pact took effect in 2012, one reason Trump has denounced it. Trade in autos has been especially lopsided: South Korea last year exported to the United States 929,000 passenger vehicles worth $15.7 billion. By contrast, the U.S. shipped to South Korea fewer than 53,000 autos, worth just $1.5 billion, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

The United States says South Korea has used nontariff barriers, such as rigorous customs inspections, to block U.S. products.

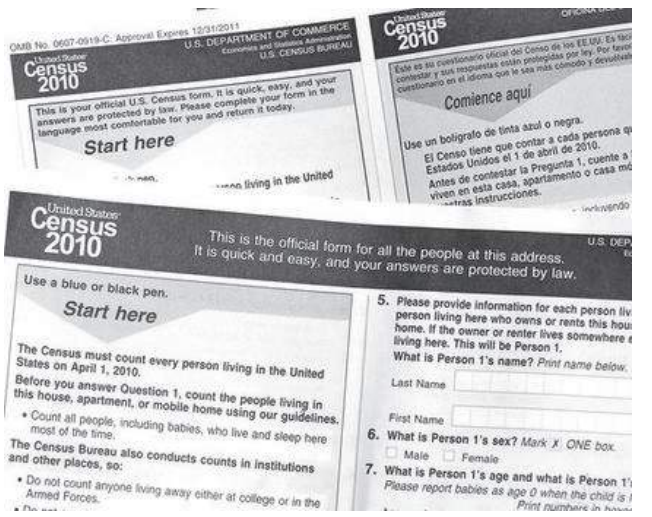
Trump's complaints about South Korean trade practices have caused friction between the two allies at a crucial time, as he prepares for a meeting with North Korea's reclusive leader, Kim Jong Un.

Unions at South Korea's two largest automakers, Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Motors Corp., have already blasted the new agreement for blocking access to the fast-growing U.S. pickup truck market. "It is a humiliating deal that accepts Trump's strategy to preemptively block South Korean pickup trucks," Hyundai Motor Co.'s labor union said in a statement.

Nation

Dems fear immigrants will skip census with citizenship query

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration's decision to ask people about their citizenship in the 2020 census set off worries among Democrats that immigrants will dodge the survey altogether, diluting political representation for states that tend to vote Democratic and robbing many communities of federal dollars.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AP

In this March 15, 2010, file photo, copies of the 2010 Census forms in Phoenix. The 2020 U.S. Census will add a question about citizenship status, a move that brought swift condemnation from Democrats who said it would intimidate immigrants and discourage them from participating.

Not since 1950 has the census collected citizenship data from the whole population, rather than just a population sample, says the Congressional Research Service. The decision to restore the question after decades prompted an immediate lawsuit from California—already tangling with Washington over immigration—and moves by other states with large immigrant populations to engage in a legal fight.

The population count, a massive effort taken every 10 years, is far more than an academic exercise. It's required by the Constitution and used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House as well as how federal money is distributed to local communities. Communities and businesses depend on it in deciding where to build schools, hospitals, grocery stores and more.

The political stakes of undercounting segments of the population are high.

Several states that have slowing population growth or high numbers of immigrants such as California, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts and Ohio are typically at risk of losing U.S. House seats when their congressional districts are redrawn every 10 years - depending on how fully their residents are counted.

California struck quickly, with Attorney General Xavier Becerra filing a federal lawsuit Tuesday that seeks to block Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' decision to add a citizenship question in 2020. Officials from New York and New Jersey, also Democratic-led states, were also planning on leading or participating in lawsuits. Massachusetts signaled interest, too.

"The census constitutes the backbone for planning how and where our communities will invest taxpayer dollars," Becerra said. "California simply has too much to lose to allow the Trump Administration to botch this important decennial obligation.

Trump suggests paying for US border wall with Pentagon funds

WASHINGTON (AP)—Still angry about the budget deal he signed last week, President Donald Trump has floated the idea of using the Pentagon budget to pay for his long-promised border wall with Mexico, despite the fact that such spending would likely require approval from Congress.

Trump raised the funding plan with House Speaker Paul Ryan at a meeting at the White House last Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the discussion who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

And he has tweeted that building "a great Border Wall" is "all about National Defense" and has called to "Build WALL through M!"—the military.

Departments, however, have limited authority to reprogram funds without congressional approval. Pentagon spokesman Chris Sherwood referred all questions on the wall to the White House, where spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders deflected them, saying she was "not going to get into the specifics of that."

Trump threw Washington into a tizzy on Friday when he threatened to veto the omnibus spending bill, in part because it didn't include the $25 billion he'd tried to secure for the wall in a last-minute bargaining spree.

The $1.3 trillion funding package did include $1.6 billion in border wall spending. But much of that money can only be used to repair existing segments, not build new sections. Congress also put restrictions on the types of barriers that can be built.

Trump has tried to justify signing the deal by pointing to the boost in funding it provides for the military. But he nonetheless remains frustrated, according to people familiar with his thinking who weren't authorized to discuss private conversations and who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump first publicly floated the idea of having the Pentagon pay for the rest of construction in an obscure tweet that left many confused.

"Building a great Border Wall, with drugs (poison) and enemy combatants pouring into our Country, is all about National Defense," he wrote Sunday. "Build WALL through M!"

He retweeted his message again Monday night.

Some people close to the president have also suggested creating a GoFundMe campaign that Trump could use to raise money from the public to fund construction. The White House did not immediately respond to questions about the idea, and it's unclear whether it has gained any serious traction.

Asia

Kim, Xi portray strong ties

BEIJING (AP)—North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping sought to portray strong ties between the neighbors and long-time allies despite a recent chill, as both countries on Wednesday confirmed Kim's secret trip to Beijing this week.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said Kim made the unofficial visit to China from Sunday to Wednesday at Xi's invitation in what was in his first trip to a foreign country since he took power in 2011.

Xi held talks with Kim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing and he and his wife Peng Liyuan hosted a banquet for Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju, Xinhua said. They also watched an art performance together, the news agency said.

Official reports from both countries depicted in effusive terms warm ties between the two leaders in what analysts said appeared to be an effort to downplay recent tensions in relations over Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

In these reports, "Kim reaffirms the traditional friendship between the two countries as if nothing had ever happened, when the relationship had plummeted to unprecedented lows," said Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Ties in recent months have frayed as China supported tougher U.N. sanctions on North Korea and suspended imports of coal, iron ore, seafood and textiles. Pyongyang last year seemingly sought to humiliate Beijing by timing some of its missile tests for major global summits in China, while its state media accused Chinese state-controlled media of "going under the armpit of the U.S." by criticizing the North.

AP

In this photo provided Wednesday, March 28, 2018, by China's Xinhua News Agency, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands in Beijing, China.

Xi hailed Kim's visit as embodying the importance with which the North Korean leader regarded ties with China.

"We speak highly of this visit," Xi told Kim, according to Xinhua.

For China, the visit also reminds other countries that Beijing remains one of North Korea's most important allies and is a player not to be sidelined in denuclearization talks. It also projects to the Chinese public that Xi is firmly in charge of steering Beijing's relations with North Korea in a way that favors China's interests.

"Here is Xi Jinping saying, 'Don't worry, everything is going to be great'," Glaser said.

Analysts say Kim would have felt a need to consult with his country's traditional ally ahead of his planned meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and President Donald Trump in the coming weeks. China would also not want Kim's first foreign meeting to be with someone other than Xi.

"China was clearly not comfortable with the idea of Kim meeting with Moon and Trump before having ever met with Xi," said Paul Haenle, director of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy in Beijing.

"Beijing has significant interests and huge stakes in any outcomes of upcoming summits and did not want to be on the sidelines as a spectator" as important diplomatic events occurred, Haenle said.

Kim was described by Xinhua as saying that his country wants to transform ties with South Korea into "a relationship of reconciliation and cooperation." The two Koreas are still technically at war because their 1950-53 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Kim also said that North Korea is willing to hold a summit with the United States, according to Xinhua.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency published Kim's personal letter to Xi dated on Wednesday, where he expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership for showing what he described as "heartwarming hospitality" during his "productive" visit.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan air force drops first laser-guided bomb during combat

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO says the Afghan air force dropped its first laser-guided bomb during combat after completing training on how to use the sophisticated weapons system. A NATO statement on Tuesday says the bomb was dropped on a Taliban compound in a "direct hit" in the western Farah province last Thursday. It says the precision targeting allowed the air force to avoid harming nearby civilians. The new system is part of U.S. and NATO efforts to bolster Afghanistan's military. Afghan forces have struggled to contain the Taliban and a powerful Islamic State affiliate since international forces formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014.

Indonesian court orders therapy for Australian drug user

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian court ordered an Australian man to undergo rehabilitation after finding him guilty on Tuesday of possessing a small amount of drugs on the tourist island of Bali. Baker Joshua James was found carrying 28.02 grams (0.99 ounces) of marijuana mixed with tobacco and 37 tablets of the anti-anxiety drug diazepam when he arrived at Bali's Ngurah Rai Airport on Oct. 8 from Bangkok, officials said. In his verdict, presiding judge Wayan Kawisada of the Denpasar District Court said James needed rehabilitation because he suffers from depression and bipolar disorder and is addicted to anti-anxiety medication. Kawisada said the rehabilitation would be carried out by the Kasih Kita Foundation in Bali's capital. The 10-month rehabilitation period includes time spent in jail since James's arrest. Indonesia has very strict drug laws and convicted traffickers can be executed by firing squad.

World

NATO joins in Russian diplomat expulsions after spy is attacked

LONDON (AP)—NATO on Tuesday joined a wave of countries and groups expelling Russian diplomats over the nerve-agent attack on a former spy in Britain. Russia denounced the actions as "boorish" and insignificant but pledged to retaliate.

The mass expulsions were a show of solidarity for Britain, which blames Russia for the poisoning of ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia. Moscow vehemently denies responsibility and has vowed a "tough response" to the expulsions.

More than 20 countries on Monday announced that they were expelling a total of more than 130 Russian diplomats, including 60 kicked out by the United States. Australia, Belgium, Ireland and Moldova joined them Tuesday.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance also would expel seven staffers from the Russian mission and deny the pending accreditation requests of three other workers at the Russian mission.

Stoltenberg said "we will continue to work for meaningful dialogue" with Russia, but added that the measure announced Tuesday should "send a very clear message to Russia that it has costs."

"I actually think that Russia has underestimated the unity of NATO allies," he said.

The White House said that President Donald Trump spoke Tuesday with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and the leaders "expressed support" for the expulsions and "praised" the announcement by others who have followed suit.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said his country was expelling two Russian diplomats whom he described as undeclared intelligence officers. He slammed Russia for "reckless and deliberate" conduct that he said harms global security and violates rules against the use of chemical weapons.

The Russian Embassy in Canberra said the decision jeopardized bilateral relationships. "It is astonishing how easily the allies of Great Britain follow it blindly contrary to the norms of civilized bilateral dialogue and international relations, and against ... common sense," it said.

Russia's Ambassador Grigory Logvinov told reporters in Canberra a day after Turnbull's announcement that the countries and groups expelling Russians are "not a significant number" and he repeated Russian leaders' declarations that Russia was not responsible for the attack.

Ireland also announced it was ordering one Russian diplomat to leave. Foreign Minister Simon Coveney called the nerve-agent attack on Skripal and his daughter a "shocking and abhorrent" use of chemical weapons.

Belgium followed suit, saying it would expel one Russian diplomat.

And Moldova, the ex-Soviet nation whose pro-Western government is seeking closer ties with the West, on Tuesday also ordered three Russian diplomats to leave within seven days.

Bulgaria, which has so far refrained from ordering any Russians out, said it has recalled its ambassador to Moscow for "consultations."

The Skripals remain hospitalized in critical condition after they were found unconscious on March 4 in the English city of Salisbury, where the former spy lived. Britain says they were poisoned with a Soviet-made military-grade nerve agent known as Novichok.

Expert says Brexit campaign used data mined from Facebook

LONDON (AP)—The computer expert who alleges a trove of Facebook data was improperly used to help Donald Trump's White House bid said Tuesday that he strongly believes the information was also used by the Brexit movement that persuaded Britain to quit the European Union.

In a 3½-hour hearing, Chris Wylie told the House of Commons media committee that he believes the breach exceeded the 50 million Facebook users reported earlier—though he didn't give an exact figure. And he said the data compiled by the political consulting business Cambridge Analytica was available to other firms with links to it.

"All kinds of people had access to the data," said Wylie, who helped develop Cambridge Analytica's methods for using the information to target and persuade voters. "It was everywhere."

Among the companies that had access to the data was AggregateIQ, a Canadian political consultant that did work for Vote Leave, the official campaign backing Britain's withdrawal from the EU, Wylie said.

Wylie described Cambridge Analytica as just one arm of a global company, SCL Group, that gets most of its income from military contracts but is also a political gun-for-hire, often in countries where democratic institutions are weak. He suggested the company combines computer algorithms and dirty tricks to help candidates win regardless of the cost.

The 28-year-old Canadian with a swath of pink hair says he helped set up Cambridge Analytica in 2013. He left the next year.

Wylie has previously alleged that Cambridge Analytica used personal data improperly collected from Facebook users to help Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Cambridge Analytica says none of the Facebook data was used in its work on the Trump campaign. It denies any wrongdoing.

Cambridge Analytica's acting CEO, Alexander Tayler, said in a statement that Wylie was a part-time contractor who "has no direct knowledge of our work or practices" since he left the company.

Wylie said he "absolutely" believes AggregateIQ drew on Cambridge Analytica's databases for its work on the Brexit campaign. In the closely fought referendum in 2016, 51.9 percent of voters backed Britain's departure from the EU.

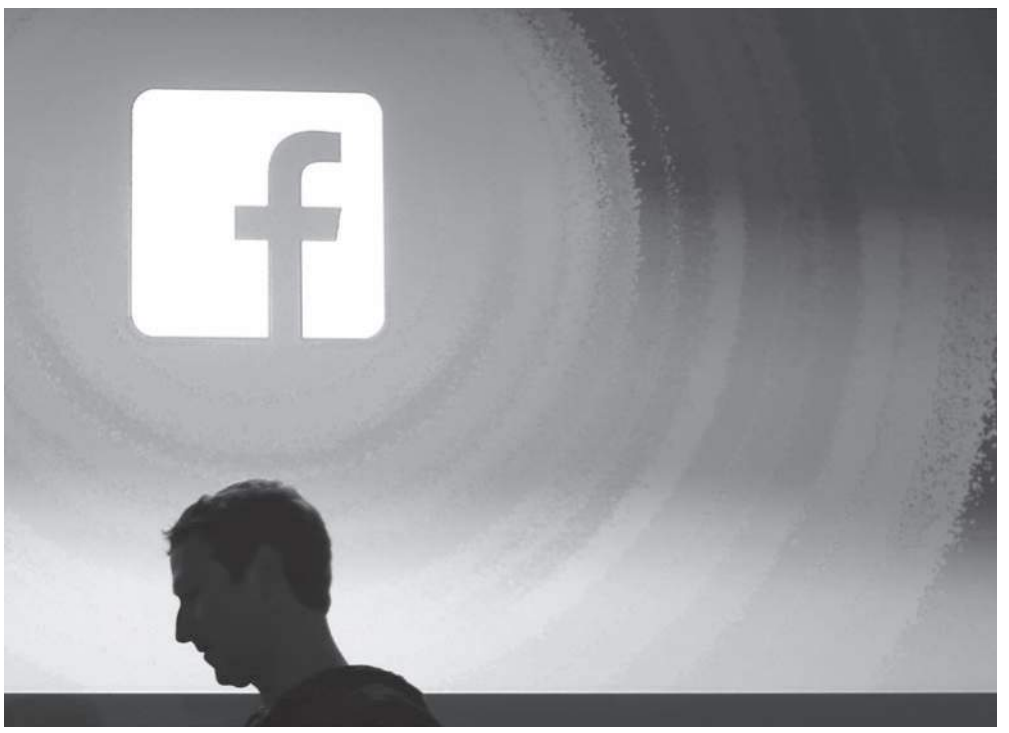
"I think it is incredibly reasonable to say that AIQ played a very significant role in Leave winning," Wylie said.

He testified that AggregateIQ was formed when Cambridge Analytica sought to expand but Canadians he wanted to bring into the business didn't want to relocate to Britain. The two firms shared underlying technology and worked so closely together that Cambridge Analytica staff often referred to the Canadian firm as a "department," he said.

Focus

Is Zuckerberg willing to act boldly to fix Facebook crisis?

By ADAM GELLER and BARBARA ORTUTAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP

In this April 4, 2013 file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg walks at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

As questions mounted last year about whether Facebook had been exploited to tilt the U.S. presidential election, Mark Zuckerberg's to-do list landed him on a fishing trawler off Alabama's Gulf coast.

But the chatter surrounding the CEO's arrival in port was that it signaled something bigger than just the start of a 30-state personal tour: his designs on a job even more powerful than leading the social network that links 2.2 billion people worldwide.

"It was one of the last things I asked him, thinking it would put a smile on his face—and it did," said Dominick Ficarino, who owns a shrimp business in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, and hosted a dockside lunch for Zuckerberg that Sunday afternoon.

"I asked him if he was interested in running for president of the United States. And his answer to me was: 'Can I answer you with a question? If you were me, would you?'"

Thirteen months later, Zuckerberg no longer has the luxury of mulling a hypothetical next act. Instead, he is grappling with a crisis that has enveloped the company synonymous with his face and name. It does not help that the most glaring reminder of Facebook's flaws is the unabated uproar over the American presidency itself.

"The world feels anxious and divided, and Facebook has a lot of work to do," Zuckerberg wrote in January, laying out the "personal challenge" that he sets for himself each year.

In 2017, the billionaire challenged himself to travel to every state he'd never visited. This year, long after critics began demanding an overhaul, Zuckerberg said his personal goal is to "fix" the platform that he has engineered to build community—but that is increasingly blamed for warping it.

Yet things continue to get worse. Scrutiny of Facebook has intensified following reports that it failed to prevent the data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica from amassing personal information about millions of users—possibly used to aid Donald Trump's campaign—and that the social network has been collecting Android users' phone call and text message histories without notice. That adds to criticism that Facebook manipulates its users and has allowed Russian bots to divide Americans by spreading false information.

On Monday, the Federal Trade Commission announced it was investigating Facebook for its privacy practices.

Throughout the mounting crisis, Zuckerberg's response has been a study in contradictions. He crisscrossed the country, even as his company back home came under increasing fire. He preaches transparency, but flinches at questioning and craves privacy. He is undeniably brilliant, but stubborn in his reluctance to acknowledge the extent of Facebook's problems.

Even his critics say he is uniquely capable of righting the ship. But at 33, is he prepared to do all it will take?

"If he fails to do it, it may take a while but eventually people are going to rebel," said Roger McNamee, an early Facebook investor and adviser who has become one of the company's most pointed critics.

"I thought Facebook was a force for good in the world for a really long time," McNamee said. "I think it's really hard to make that case today."

■■■

Days after Trump's election, Zuckerberg was pressed on the possibility that foreign agents had used his social network to divide voters.

"The idea that fake news on Facebook ... influenced the election in any way, I think, is a pretty crazy idea," the CEO told the audience at a California technology conference.

"I think all of us were shocked to learn how wrong he was," said David Kirkpatrick, the author of a 2010 book about Facebook who questioned Zuckerberg that day. "You can certainly say that he was culpable, in that he was naive and inattentive to what was happening in his system. But I don't think he was lying."

Zuckerberg walked back the remark soon after, continuing a years-long routine of self-correction. But errors that reflect his stubbornness, those who know him say, are tempered by an eagerness to learn from mistakes and a deep sense of reflection.

Donald Graham, the former chairman of the Washington Post Co., recalled that when he met Zuckerberg in 2005, outsiders still weren't sure what to make of Facebook.

"I would ask him a question and he would pause long enough - 15 seconds, 20 seconds - that I would think 'Did I insult him? Did he not hear me?'" said Graham, who went on to serve on the company's board from 2008 to 2015.

"Since I am from Washington, I'm not used to people thinking before they are answering a question. ... But Mark, then as now, was thinking about the right answer."

Zuckerberg's boyish appearance, even today, is a reminder of just how young he was when he created what would become the world's biggest social network, back in his dorm room at Harvard.

"I didn't know anything about building a company or global internet service," he wrote in January. "Over the years I've made almost every mistake you can imagine."

Naomi Gleit, Facebook's longest-serving employee after the CEO, said Zuckerberg - who declined an interview request from The Associated Press - has been talking about making the world a better place since he was 21. But his view of that world and his place in it "seemed almost like a gravity, a burden of responsibility," she said.

That seriousness coincides with a sense of certainty.

Gleit recalled Zuckerberg's steadfast attachment to a Facebook message service similar to email, even as more people began using phones to send text messages. But co-workers eventually swayed the CEO, who she described as a "learn-it-all." That change-of-mind informed Facebook's 2014 purchase of the WhatsApp messaging service for $19 billion.

"I think he would even say now that he was initially wrong," Gleit said.

With Zuckerberg, "its experiment, learn, experiment, learn," said LinkedIn cofounder Reid Hoffman, who has known him since 2004. Hoffman said that is evident in Zuckerberg's enthusiasm for software, which can be overwritten to fix problems. That facility, he said, makes Zuckerberg the equal of executives with far more experience.

But in the process of learning, Zuckerberg's inexperience has sometimes played out in public view.

■■■

In 2010, Zuckerberg announced on Oprah Winfrey's television show that he would donate $100 million to schools in Newark, New Jersey.

Critics labeled it an attempt to polish his image, just as the biopic "The Social Network" was being released. Still, there was little questioning his generosity. The problem was that Zuckerberg—who knew little about education—made the gift with few specifics outlining how it should be spent.

"He was just a very young, naive, inexperienced guy who was brilliant at technology and computers and the internet, but just really didn't know much about how the world worked," said Dale Russakoff, author of "The Prize," a book chronicling how the money went to high-priced consultants, with minimal effort by leaders to build community support.

By the end of the process, Zuckerberg had developed a clearer understanding of how to get things done. He and his wife, Dr. Priscilla Chan, have since chartered their own foundation and structured it to take on mammoth goals, like a $3 billion investment to cure, prevent or manage all diseases. He has pledged to donate 99 percent of his Facebook stock to philanthropy.

"Zuck's maturation has occurred in front of the public," said Kirkpatrick, author of "The Facebook Effect: The Inside Story of the Company that Is Connecting the World." ''But he also still lives with the consequences of the decisions he made when he was less mature."

At Facebook, Zuckerberg has grown increasingly bold in using huge sums of money to pursue corporate goals, which includes purchasing competitors—or companies that could grow into competitors.

Facebook's $1 billion purchase of Instagram in 2012—then unprofitable and little-known—came as a shock to Wall Street. Two years later came the multibillion-dollar deal to buy WhatsApp, a company that remains unprofitable but has given Facebook a prime portal into developing countries and other regions outside the U.S.

In 2014, soon after Facebook bought a virtual reality firm called Oculus, Zuckerberg found himself being grilled in a lawsuit brought by a competitor who accused an Oculus executive of stealing trade secrets. Under questioning, he talked about the pressure he exerted to make the Oculus deal happen, and his vision of growing it so fast "that we can get every developer and studio in the world building just for Oculus before any big competitor exists."

Last year, in a bid to free up his fortune for philanthropy, Zuckerberg pushed board members to restructure Facebook's stock, allowing him to sell off part of his stake while maintaining control. That prompted a suit by a group of shareholders who argued that the move would benefit only Zuckerberg while diluting the value of other investors' stakes. Days before Zuckerberg was scheduled to testify as part of the suit, the company dropped the plan.

The gambit hints at the complexity of being Zuckerberg, who advocates for transparency and the interests of the community but whose individual interests don't always align.

The paradox is self-inflicted, the trade-off for creating a venture premised on users' willingness to share details of their lives. That requires Zuckerberg, who has 105 million Facebook "friends," to reveal far more about himself than would be expected of any other CEO, whether its photos of him and Chan baking sweets for the Jewish holiday of Purim or dressing their daughters for the Chinese New Year.

Yet he fiercely guards his privacy.

When calls went out last year for Zuckerberg to testify before a Senate committee, the company sent its lawyer. And when he and Chan bought 700 acres on the Hawaiian island of Kauai last year, they quietly filed lawsuits against hundreds of Hawaiians - withdrawn after protests - that would have cut off locals' access to the land by negating their interest in small ancestral tracts within the estate's boundaries.

"Intellectually, he believes in transparency," Kirkpatrick said. "But emotionally, it's very difficult for him."

■■■

Facebook works hard to present Zuckerberg as someone deeply interested in the ordinary people whose lives are at the heart of its business.

Stops on last year's U.S. tour, never announced, were set up by facilitators who revealed details to only a select few. But many of the visits were covered by the media and documented in professional-quality photos on Zuckerberg's Facebook page soon after he'd departed.

Ostensibly, the idea was for Zuckerberg to learn. But in their brief interactions, many people were just as interested in finding a way to connect with him.

In Hazard, Kentucky, educator Paul Green became custodian of the small town's biggest secret. A staffer from

See FACEBOOK on Next Page

Environment

Hong Kong's skyline farms harvest more happiness than food

By KELVIN CHAN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

AP

In this Nov. 14, 2017, photo, volunteers pick lettuce growing in rows of low black plastic planters on a decommissioned helipad on the roof of the 38-story Bank of America tower, in Hong Kong.

AP

In this Nov. 14, 2017, photo, a volunteer picks Indian lettuce on the roof of the 38-story Bank of America tower, in Hong Kong.

HONG KONG (AP)—High above downtown Hong Kong's bustling, traffic-clogged streets, a group of office workers was toiling away not on a corporate acquisition or a public share offering but on harvesting a bumper crop of lettuce atop one of the skyscrapers studding the city's skyline.

It's rooftop farming taken to the extreme, and more about reaping happiness than providing food.

The volunteers were picking butter lettuce, Indian lettuce and Chinese mustard leaf in rows of low black plastic planters on a decommissioned helipad on the 146-meter (480-foot)-high roof of the 38-story Bank of America tower, the scenery: a vertiginous panorama of glass office towers framed by lush mountain peaks and Victoria Harbor.

"It's pretty dirty but still I really enjoy it," said Catherine Ng, one of five volunteers who work for the property company managing the tower.

The farm is run by Rooftop Republic, a three-year-old startup whose founders are tapping growing interest in organic food and taking advantage of unused roof space in the cramped, high-rent Chinese city.

Hong Kong, with its skinny office blocks and apartment towers and busy, affluent residents, might seem an unlikely place for rooftop farming to catch on. The finance and trading hub has rural suburbs, but farming only takes up 700 hectares (1,730 acres) of its land and agriculture accounts for 0.1 percent of its economic output. Rooftop Republic's founders say the appetite for their services is growing among Hong Kongers who are seeking a more sustainable lifestyle and concerned about where their food comes from.

"We have been getting more and more interest from people who want to grow their own food," said Michelle Hong, one of the founders. "A lot of it is triggered by concerns about food safety and the realization that a lot of the food they consume might be laden with pesticides. I think people want to have more control and also more trust."

Hong Kong imports almost all of its food, much of it from mainland China. Public awareness about food safety in the former British colony has risen after countless food contamination scandals on the mainland.

Rooftop Republic has set up on average one farm a month since its founding and now manages 36 covering more than 30,000 square feet (about 2,800 square meters), including one in mainland China, Hong said. It also provides workshops for companies, building owners, schools, and community groups.

The Bank of America farm was a milestone because it was the first in the city's financial district. The company has since set up two more in the area and is looking at a few more sites, Hong said. Vegetables from the tower are donated to a food bank for uses in lunch boxes distributed to the needy. Some of its other farms are at hotels or restaurants, which use the herbs, eggplants and melons for dishes on their menus.

Plenty of other groups or individuals have started cultivating their own rooftop vegetable gardens, said Matthew Pryor, a Hong Kong University architecture professor who has counted at least 60 and thinks there are a lot more he doesn't know about.

Pryor's research found approximately 1,500 rooftop farmers in the city, cultivating a total area of about 1 ½ hectares. He thinks there's potential for that to easily grow to 50,000 people working on a suitable rooftop area of 600 hectares.

He helped set up a farm on top of a university building where volunteers, mainly staff, grow tomatoes, potatoes, strawberries, lettuce, dragonfruit, papaya, beans, peas and squash.

Pryor said he discovered through his research that their main product isn't edible.

"The rooftop farms here produce virtually nothing" compared to Hong Kong's overall consumption, Pryor said. "What they do produce, however, is happiness, and this social capital that they generate is enormous."

The farms can help stressed-out, overworked and socially isolated Hong Kongers be happier and improve their well-being by letting them hang out with their friends and commune with nature.

Those benefits were on display at another Rooftop Republic farm at airline Cathay Pacific's headquarters near the city's airport on rural Lantau Island.

Airline staff planted crops that thrive in Hong Kong's cool, dry winter growing season, like kale, cabbage, radishes and carrots, which they can take home.

"We're right by the sea, we have great views of the harbor, at the same time have got great views of the airport. We see planes every two minutes," said volunteer Prian Chan. "So it's awesome to be here."

FACEBOOK

From Page 18

Zuckerberg's foundation, peppering Green with questions about the region's educational cooperative, finally admitted it was because the CEO himself wanted to visit. Green's reward for keeping it quiet was seeing the wide-eyed grins when Zuckerberg pulled up and greeted local high schoolers studying robotics and programming.

Walking through science demonstrations, Zuckerberg spent more time trading tech tales with the teenagers than quizzing the teachers.

"He just lit up with those kids," Green said. "The way he talked with them about some of the things he did when he was in school and his passion for technology, it really was cool."

When Zuckerberg toured an oil rig near Williston, North Dakota, last July, "from the minute he got out of the car to the minute he got back in the car, he was nothing but questions," said Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, which arranged the visit.

"I had Bakken shale, limestone, dolomite, and he was able to hold them in his hand, along with a bottle of crude oil. And I remember him asking, 'How do you get that oil out of that rock?'" geologist Kathleen Neset said.

In Dayton, Ohio, Zuckerberg met with officials, caregivers and families battling drug addiction. Lori Erion, the founder of the group Families of Addicts, said she told him what it was like to learn her daughter, April, had shot up heroin in their own home.

"It seemed to get him really emotional," Erion said, recalling how Zuckerberg stood up suddenly and told the group he needed a few minutes to steady himself. When he returned, he asked what makes an addict stay clean and how families got their loved ones into treatment.

"We didn't ever talk about Facebook at all," Erion said, "which is really interesting because Facebook is really the main way of us getting information out. He really was just like a regular person."

■■■

As Zuckerberg connected with Americans face-to-face, controversy over Facebook continued to spiral.

Shortly before the election, McNamee sent a letter to Zuckerberg and Facebook's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, warning that Facebook was being manipulated in ways its creators never intended. It wasn't just about the U.S. election: A consulting firm had collected data on people interested in the Black Lives Matter movement and sold it to police departments, and critics had detected a well-organized, clandestine campaign supporting Brexit.

All this pointed to a deep problem with Facebook—that it was simply not equipped or not willing to prevent the misuse of its platform.

McNamee said he has been disappointed in the incremental changes announced since.

Facebook has adopted this "libertarian philosophy that says 'we are not responsible for anything downstream, we are allowed to disrupt media, we are allowed to addict our users and we are not responsible for any of the consequences of any of that,'" he said.

Zuckerberg could change that. But McNamee said it is not enough to hire thousands of workers to weed through fake and abusive posts if those posts keep getting through. And tweaking Facebook's newsfeed so users see more posts from families and friends does not address his certainty that the algorithms underlying Facebook make it dangerously addictive.

"You cannot cure addiction by doing more of the thing that got you addicted in the first place, which is what Zuck recommends," McNamee wrote in an email.

Critics say Facebook continues to ignore the possibility of the social network being used for dark purposes, but Zuckerberg's supporters counter that he is unfairly blamed for problems he could not have foreseen.

Hoffman, the LinkedIn co-founder, credits Zuckerberg with leading Facebook through a shift in mindset, making changes that will nudge users into a more positive virtual environment—without completely shutting out inflammatory content.

"Facebook basically is saying we enable people based on the way they behave. That's a very democratic argument. If people want to live in filter bubbles, who are we to say 'Don't live in filter bubbles,' even though we don't want them to?" Hoffman said.

But Kirkpatrick argued that Zuckerberg's and Sandberg's surety that Facebook has a positive impact on society has blinded them to parallel realities. The company can't be fixed, Kirkpatrick said, until Zuckerberg comes to terms with existential threats to the way the social network does business—its potential to negatively affect democracy and the way it hooks in users.

"There's no question in my mind that Mark Zuckerberg is an ethical and responsible human being who wants to do the right thing," he said. "However, I do not think he has yet grasped the gravity with which his service is being perceived to be a socially harmful force all around the world. And I also don't think he realizes the extent to which that really is true."

McNamee, recalling Zuckerberg as a 22-year-old visionary, said the CEO must be willing to rethink long-held assumptions. But that does not mean he has to abandon building his global community.

"You've won," McNamee said he would tell Zuckerberg if asked again for his counsel.

"You've achieved more than your wildest dreams. You're a billionaire. Now you have a chance to be a hero."

Life & Style

Q&A: Spielberg likes VR, but not necessarily for filmmaking

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

This cover image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Tye Sheridan, from left, Olivia Cooke, Philip Zhao and Win Morisaki in a scene from "Ready Player One." AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For Steven Spielberg, "Ready Player One" was a great escape from reality.

The legendary filmmaker says he got to live in the imaginations of author Ernest Cline and co-screenwriter Zak Penn in this dystopian, futuristic world full of '80s references and virtual reality possibilities for three years, with brief trips "back to Earth" to make "Bridge of Spies" and "The Post."

"This was a film that for me fulfilled all of my fantasies of the places I go in my imagination when I get out of town," he said.

Spielberg spoke to The Associated Press about the film, nostalgia and the prospects of VR in filmmaking.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

Associated Press: You said that you wanted to keep references to your own films to a minimum.

SPIELBERG: I kept it to a dull roar. I kept it to a dull roar by not putting everything in the kitchen sink in there. But because the '80s, there were so many contributors to the culture of the 1980s, so many international brands really left their mark not just in movies but also in music and wardrobe and costume and clothing and fashion.

AP: Is it sort of like a journalistic conflict of interest?

SPIELBERG: Exactly. Exactly. I felt a little bit of a conflict of interest.

AP: This movie is kind of a celebration of nostalgia. Do you ever worry that we're so focused on the past that we're not creating something new?

SPIELBERG: I think we're actually very current focused. I wish there was more focus on the past. Social media has ... triggered a sort of critical mass of contemporary, almost, panic to be included in the conversation globally. ... Today's social media is actually causing a lot of young people to dwell on the immediate social rewards of being liked or disliked and that's scary for me. And it also stops people from reminiscing and looking back on a quieter era. So I'm not worried at all about anybody getting stuck in nostalgia because nostalgia is what we're not getting enough of right now in my opinion.

AP: Do you think the rules of Hollywood are being rewritten with the success of films like "Black Panther"?

SPIELBERG: The rules of Hollywood are rewritten every couple of years anyway. It's a continuum not a pendulum. Although there are flashbacks all the time to styles and themes that our parents grew up with that we seem to think we invented. I really feel like everything is moving forward, is moving ahead.

AP: It does seem like there's progress.

SPIELBERG: I think there's progress. We're stalling out a little bit in the political cycle with the political quagmire we find ourselves stuck with but culturally we're still moving ahead.

AP: Perhaps that stagnation is fueling the progress elsewhere?

SPIELBERG: It's giving people a new voice. It's making people realize that their vote counts and their voices will be heard, they just have to exercise the right to speak and the right to vote and when they do that they can change the world in a significant, positive way.

AP: What do you think of something like Disney and Fox combining?

SPIELBERG: I'm not going to get into business.

AP: "Ready Player One" both celebrates the potential of virtual reality and is also kind of a cautionary tale. What do you think of VR as a future for filmmaking?

SPIELBERG: I love VR. I'm not sure I love VR as a medium for telling a story but I do love VR for how it could release people to go places they will never in their lifetimes or be able to afford to go, you know see the Great Wall of China, be able to see the rainforests to be able to even see the Grand Canyon if you're living in faraway places. I think it's going to be a boon to science and medicine and education especially. I'm not yet certain how I could make a movie in VR because I don't have as much control over where the audience is looking. I would have to really be clever to get them to pay attention to where I want them to pay attention, on what I want them to pay attention to, which is the story and the characters. They might be looking all around the world and taking their eye off the bouncing story ball.

Ex-Weinstein assistant says she tried to stop him in 1998

LONDON (AP)—Harvey Weinstein's former assistant says she tried to stop him abusing women two decades ago, making him sign a legal agreement that required him to seek therapy and mend his ways.

Zelda Perkins quit Weinstein's film company in 1998, along with a colleague who accused the movie mogul of trying to rape her.

As part of a settlement, Perkins signed a non-disclosure agreement. It kept her silent, but also committed Weinstein to attend therapy for three years. And it required the company to spill the beans to its then-owner, the Walt Disney Co., or to fire Weinstein if he made any more payouts over alleged wrongdoing.

Perkins said her hope was to "create protection for people in the future."

Under the terms of the agreement, Perkins chose the therapist Weinstein was to consult. She doesn't know whether he ever went to the sessions.

"I have no idea if any of the obligations were upheld," Perkins told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

She said that a year after she left the company she ran into Weinstein at the Cannes Film Festival, and "he told me that everything I had done was pointless."

Perkins is due to testify Wednesday before the British Parliament's Women and Equalities Committee, which is investigating sexual harassment and the use of non-disclosure agreements, or NDAs. Conservative lawmaker Maria Miller, who chairs the committee, says there are concerns the gag orders might be used to "mask the scale of this problem."

NDAs are common in the corporate world, but Perkins says her experience shows they can be used to let perpetrators get away with wrongdoing while silencing their victims.

The agreement Perkins signed kept her quiet about Weinstein's behavior for almost 20 years. He continued to be one of Hollywood's most powerful producers until last fall, when women—including Hollywood stars—publicly accused him of groping, exposing himself to them or forcing them into unwanted sex.

Weinstein has since been fired by the company he co-founded and expelled by Hollywood's film academy. Police in the U.S. and Britain are investigating multiple claims of sexual assault.

Weinstein denies all allegations of nonconsensual sex.

Perkins was in her early 20s and says he had barely heard of Weinstein when she began working for his then-company, Miramax, in London. She says he was a challenging employer.

"Everybody knew that he had a roving eye and he pushed it with women," she said. He also had a fearsome temper, and didn't respect usual office boundaries, sometimes walking around naked or in his underwear.

"I was 22 and I was like, 'OK, this is what it must be like in the big league,'" Perkins said. "This guy is really important—he doesn't have time to wear his trousers."

Perkins says she wasn't aware of any allegations of sexual assault until a younger colleague came to her in distress during the 1998 Venice Film Festival and said Weinstein had tried to rape her. The pair flew back to England and went to lawyers, "with the presumption that we were going to prosecute him in court."

Told they could not prosecute in England because the alleged crime took place in Italy, the two women ended up negotiating an agreement that saw each receive 125,000 pounds (now $177,000).

While Perkins managed to get the agreement to impose conditions on Weinstein, she said the negotiating process "was humiliating and degrading. I was made to feel like I was in the wrong for trying to expose his behavior."

Report: Many NYC sex assault cases not properly investigated

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Police Department's special victims division, tasked with investigating rape allegations against media mogul Harvey Weinstein and many other cases, is chronically understaffed and many sexual assault cases are not properly reviewed, according to a report Tuesday by a city watchdog agency.

There were 67 detectives for a crushing caseload of 5,661 suspected attacks last year, according to the report. In comparison, NYPD homicide squads had 101 detectives for 282 cases in 2017.

The lack of manpower has meant that the bulk of assaults are handled by precinct detectives with less training and experience dealing with victims, according to the Department of Investigation report.

"Chronic understaffing and inexperience have 'diluted' and 'shortened' investigations, jeopardized prosecutions, re-traumatized victims, and negatively impacted the reporting of sex crimes, thereby adversely affecting public safety," the report says.

Police officials strongly disputed the findings of the report, including the number of detectives assigned to the sex assault cases—they said there were 85 detectives not 67.

And the average caseload is 62 cases per investigator in 2017 compared with the 150 to 175 of a precinct detective, police officials said.

They said the watchdog group didn't take into account comments, suggestions and errors the department pointed out. Officials also took issue with how the division was portrayed.

"Our special victims unit is universally recognized as the premiere special victims unit in the world ... definitely in the country," said Police Commissioner James O'Neill.

Biter-gate: Tiffany Haddish reports somebody nipped Beyonce

NEW YORK (AP)—The speculation is wide, rumors numerous and denials firm. And the crime? Somebody allegedly bit Beyonce on the face at a party back in December.

How do we know this? Because Tiffany Haddish told us so. More specifically, she told GQ magazine in a profile released Monday. She didn't nail the culprit but set off Beyonce's social media Beyhive of die-hard fans and a whole lot of internet sleuthing. The mystery, natch, has a hashtag: #WhoBitBeyonce?

The latest nugget came Tuesday when TMZ reported multiple sources it did not identify by name as saying Haddish told them partygoer Sanaa Lathan is the biter. She got the hive treatment—swarms of bee emojis—until she finally spoke on Twitter: "Y'all are funny. Under no circumstances did I bite Beyonce and if I did it would've been a love bite."

Lathan, of "The Best Man" movies, included a single red-lip emoji to battle all those bees.

The purported bite (purportedly) occurred at an after-party for Beyonce hubby Jay-Z's "4:44" concert at The Forum in Los Angeles on Dec. 22. There was, purportedly, something about flirting with Jay, and something, purportedly, about the flirt being wasted.

"I can only think of one person who would do this. but I cannot say. but she....is the worst," Chrissy Teigen speculated on Twitter, though she took a deeper dive of her own and later tweeted that particular unnamed "she" isn't the culprit after all.

The Cut did some investigating, ruling out the likes of partiers Queen Latifah and Rihanna, because Queen Latifah and Rihanna. It narrowed its perp list to Lathan and Sara Foster, who played Jen Clark on "90210." Foster's reaction: "Flattering that anyone thinks I could get this close to Beyonce."

Haddish told GQ she offered to kick the biter's butt for Beyonce, but the queen said let it go.

Beyonce spokeswoman Yvette Noel-Schure did not immediately return an email Tuesday from The Associated Press seeking comment. She told GQ she had no comment and, furthermore, "no knowledge" about the purportedness.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Sean Penn makes smoky appearance on 'Late Show'

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Penn made a smoky appearance on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" to promote his book. The actor told the host Monday he had taken a sedative "to get to sleep after a red-eye flight" and Penn lit a cigarette. The two-time Academy Award winner described his novel, "Bob Honey Who Just Do Stuff," as "the conversation once a year with the drunken uncle." Penn lit a second cigarette and Colbert asked him to consider quitting. Penn said it was "job security for oncologists." Meanwhile, Penn told comedian Marc Maron in a podcast that that he and his ex-wife Robin Wright "don't have a lot of conversation." Penn said they "have very separate relationships" with their children, 26-year-old Dylan and 24-year-old Hopper. The couple divorced in 2010.

Writers for The Washington Post and BuzzFeed win Lukas award

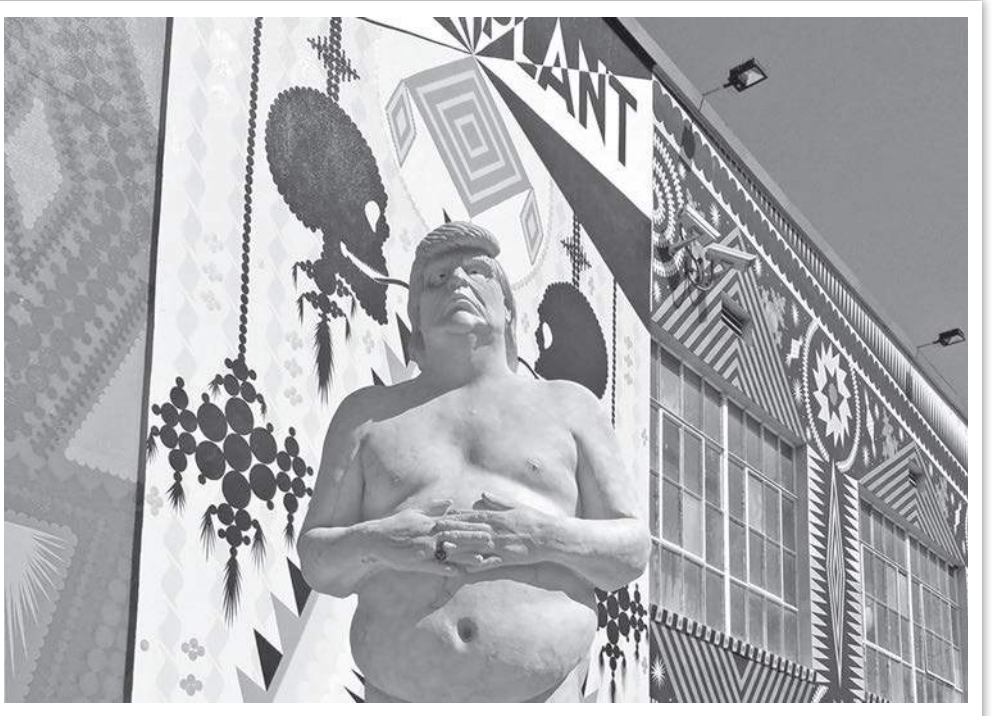
NEW YORK (AP)—Staff writers for The Washington Post and BuzzFeed News won awards on Tuesday for investigative nonfiction books. The Post's Amy Goldstein won the $10,000 J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize for her portrait of a Wisconsin community and the residence of Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan, "Janesville: An American Story." For the first time, judges handed out two Lukas Work-in-Progress Awards, each worth $25,000. BuzzFeed's Chris Hamby won for "Soul Full of Coal Dust: The True Story of an Epic Battle for Justice" and author and journalist Rachel Louise Snyder won for a book on domestic violence, "No Visible Bruises." Established in 1998, the Lukas prizes are named for the late author and investigative journalist and are administered by the Columbia Journalism School and the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard. Previous winners include Jane Mayer, Andrew Solomon and Jeffrey Toobin. Also Tuesday, Princeton University professor Stephen Kotkin won the $10,000 Mark Lynton History Prize for "Stalin: Waiting for Hitler, 1929-1941." The award is underwritten by the family of Lynton, a refugee from Nazi Germany who became an automobile executive. He died in 1997.

Stormy Daniels, NCAA propel '60 Minutes' to top of ratings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS' "60 Minutes" proved it still has the moves in its 50th year to dominate the ratings. The news magazine's interview with Stormy Daniels, the adult film star alleging a 2006 sexual encounter with Donald Trump, was the most-watched prime-time program for the week with 22.1 million viewers. That's double the nearly 11 million viewers the show has been averaging this season and gave "60 Minutes" its best showing since 2008, when 25 million tuned in to see President-elect Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle. Daniels, who's in a firefight with President Trump's lawyers over telling her story—denied by Trump—was a big draw, but "60 Minutes" got a March Madness boost from the NCAA Duke-Kansas contest that preceded it. The game's overtime win that sent the Kansas Jayhawks to the Final Four also funneled Eastern and Central viewers directly into the program.

Traffic stops for funeral of firefighter killed on movie set

NEW YORK (AP)—Traffic ground to a halt on Tuesday to make way for the funeral procession of a firefighter who was killed while dousing a blaze on the set of a new film starring Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Alec Baldwin and Willem Dafoe. The somber scene at St. Patrick's Cathedral unfolded on the same day a tenant in the fire-ravaged Harlem building filed a $7 million lawsuit accusing Norton's production company of "recklessness, carelessness and negligence." St. Patrick's Cathedral was packed with thousands of firefighters from the city and around the country and the relatives and friends mourning Lt. Michael Davidson. Cardinal Timothy Dolan officiated at the funeral Mass for Davidson, a 37-year-old married father of four young children, who was overcome by smoke last week fighting flames in a building near his Harlem-based firehouse and died the next day.



NUDE TRUMP AP

This undated image provided by Julien's Auctions shows a naked statue of Donald Trump that is going up for auction that will take place May 2, 2018, in Jersey City, N.J. Julien's Auction says the sculpture is the last statue remaining that was not vandalized or destroyed when it was displayed along with others in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Cleveland in the weeks before the Republican was elected president.

Household division of labor is source of couple's tension

DEAR ABBY: "Ron" and I have been married 20 years and have two children. Recently, he called me a "freeloader" and described my parenting as "half-assed." It's not the first time I've heard it from him.

I work part-time so I can have a flexible schedule and be home with our kids after school. Ron earns considerably more than I do, although I inherited money from my father that will provide security for our kids regardless of our incomes.

I think I'm a great mom. Our kids are healthy and well-adjusted. Although I don't need my husband's salary to live comfortably, I appreciate the good life his work affords us, and I do what I can to show it.

I do, however, expect Ron to participate in raising our kids and contribute to the running of our household. I think it's important, and I have work responsibilities and volunteer in our community. Ron says I do far less than "most of my friends" (who don't work), that he does a lot more around the house than the dads he knows and he resents it because he makes so much more money than I do.

How much is fair to expect him to do to help with our kids and home life? How can I get him to see how much hurt his name-calling and disrespect causes?

NOT A FREELOADER

DEAR NOT A FREELOADER: Every marriage is unique, which is why your husband should not compare himself to other dads and you to their wives. I find it odd that the husband of a working wife—and mother—would resort to name-calling and accuse you of freeloading. Of course Ron should participate in his children's lives. That's what being a father is all about.

Marriage is supposed to be a partnership. Helping with housework sets a good example for the kids. If the two of you can't work out a compromise without name-calling, you should at least agree to have a licensed marriage counselor mediate the discussion.

DEAR ABBY: I have a relative who has just been released from prison and is living with me and my family. He was incarcerated for more than 20 years for drugs.

It breaks my heart to say that he has relapsed and could be heading back down that same road. My mother doesn't want a drug addict in her house. She told him to make other living arrangements, and he has agreed to stay with other relatives where there are more job opportunities.

I feel guilty and my mother does, too. But she refuses to go through what she experienced during her childhood with this person. Is this the right thing to do?

RELAPSE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR RELAPSE: Yes! Your mother has made her feelings clear to this relative. Living with a drug addict is chaotic, and if she doesn't want to repeat the unpleasant and possibly traumatic experience, she shouldn't have to.

By getting him out of the house she is taking care of herself, and for that she shouldn't feel guilty. However, because she does, it might help her—and you— to attend some Nar-Anon meetings. The group was founded in 1967 and its mission is to provide emotional support to families and friends of addicts. To locate a meeting nearby, visit nar-anon.org or call toll-free (800) 477-6291.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I READ THAT A CHEETAH CAN RUN 65 MILES AN HOUR. CAN TIGERS RUN THAT FAST?
OF COURSE.
REALLY? LET'S SEE YOU DO IT.
OH, I CAN'T NOW.
YEAH? WHY NOT?
I'M NOT WEARING MY DRAG CHUTE.

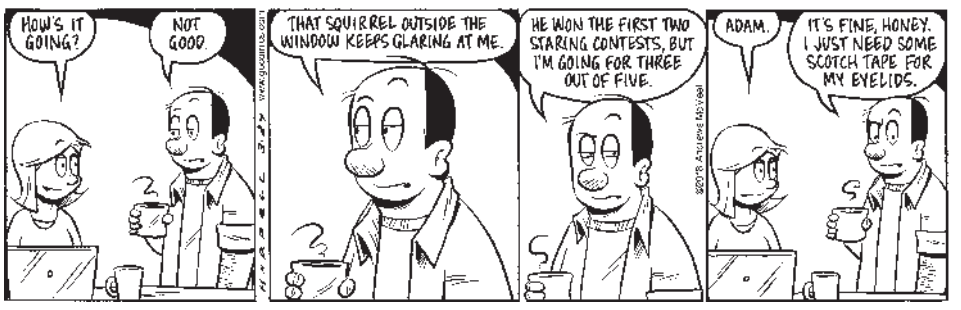
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THE CHEESE FOR LUNCH WAS CHEWY...
AND THEN I REALIZED THAT I'D LEFT THE PLASTIC WRAP ON IT!
FUNNY, HUH?
I WAS GOING TO SAY "SAD"
JIM DAVIS 3-29

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOW'S IT GOING?
NOT GOOD.
THAT SQUIRREL OUTSIDE THE WINDOW KEEPS GLARING AT ME.
HE WON THE FIRST TWO STARING CONTESTS, BUT I'M GOING FOR THREE OUT OF FIVE.
ADAM.
IT'S FINE, HONEY. I JUST NEED SOME SCOTCH TAPE FOR MY EYELIDS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HERE YOU GO. YOUR "SECRET CASSEROLE" AGAIN?!
THERE ARE PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHO WOULD LOVE MORE TO EAT.
GREAT. THEN LET'S SEND THEM THIS!
CAN'T. THEY BOYCOTT MY DISHES.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

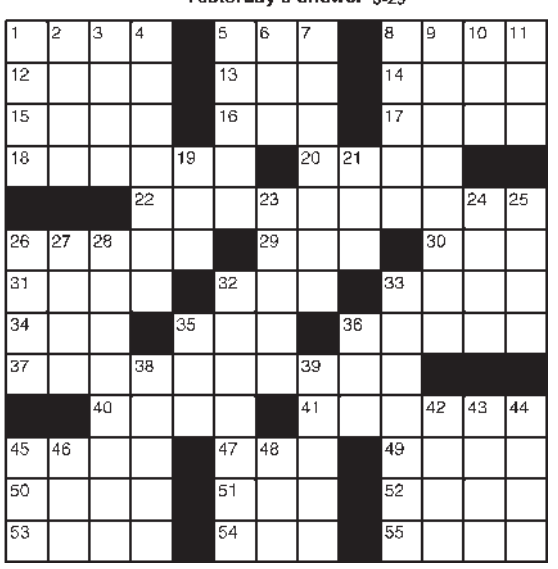
ACROSS
1 Pear variety
5 Entanglement
8 Soggy porridge
12 Hexagonal state
13 Post-op area
14 Church section
15 Boo-Boo's buddy
16 Cabin component
17 "Close one!"
18 Deem appropriate
20 Competent
22 Basketball tactics
26 Claw
29 Odometer start
30 Cistern
31 Lena of "Chocolat"
32 Equi-
33 Author Austen
34 Dallas hoopster, briefly
35 Business mag
36 "The Crucible" setting
37 Diner meals
40 Concept
41 Slot machine symbols
45 Anti-fur org.
47 Formerly called
49 "Would — to you?"
50 Morose
51 Scoundrel
52 "The Lion King" lioness
53 Band boosters
54 Decade parts (Abbr.)
55 Always

DOWN
1 Purchases
2 Oklahoma tribe
3 Wise one
4 Sheer fabric
5 Goes limp
6 Green prefix
7 Imaginary monster
8 Syrup flavor
9 Turmoil
10 Compass dir.
11 Chop
19 Actor McKellen
21 Street address?
23 Puccini opera
24 Welles role
25 Goblet feature
26 Mausoleum
27 Winged
28 "Have fun!"
32 Babyhood
33 Plant with fragrant flowers
35 White House nickname
36 Fr. holy woman
38 Ansel or Abigail
39 Winter coasters
42 Royal Norwegian name
43 Egyptian river
44 Burn somewhat
45 Links org.
46 Stately tree
48 Listening device

Solution time: 24 mins.

		F	O	W			A	R	A			
	S	C	R	A		C	L	E	N	A		
R	C	S	S	I		S	P	O	N	G	E	
B	R	O	O	K	E	S		I	E	L	D	S
	T	S		I	D	E	A	L		A	G	O
			E	K	E	S				W	R	E	N
		B	E	G	I	N		O	P	T	E	D
A	L	T	O			C	R	A	S			
P	A	C		A	S	P	E	N		S	C	I
	I	F	R	I	U	F	I	A	G	O	O	N
		S	T	R	I	P	E		C	R	A	V	E
			C	A	N	E	S		E	A	V	E	
				D	E	H			A	Y	E		

Yesterday's answer 3-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Hilty, 37; Lucy Lawless, 50; Amy Sedaris, 57; Eric Idle, 75.

Happy Birthday: Your focus should be on bringing greater stability into your life, not only from a professional or financial standpoint, but also in your everyday routine. Taking better care of your physical and emotional well-being will help you get ahead in all aspects of life. A healthier lifestyle and more time spent doing activities that are conducive to socializing are encouraged. Your numbers are 6, 14, 22, 27, 35, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take care of your responsibilities and you'll be rewarded for your effort. Dealing with any type of negotiation should be done with a practical, insightful manner if you want to come out on top. Thoughts should be followed by actions. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Business trips, educational pursuits or networking will pay off. Listen carefully and gather information without disclosing your secret plans to advance. Knowledge is valuable; gather it wisely. Know what you want and be willing to make sacrifices to get your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put more effort into improving your living space and handling your tax return and other documents. Take care of your responsibilities firsthand. Waiting for someone to step up and take over will leave you at a loss. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Protect your home and your important relationships from anyone trying to take advantage of your time, patience and understanding. Those closest to you deserve the best from you, so don't give your all to an outsider. Nurture what you already have. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* How you earn and handle your money will make a difference to your stress level. Great ideas need to be honed to fit practical application if you want to come out a winner. Strive for detail, precision and affordability. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Ask direct questions that will help you figure out where you stand. If someone is hesitant to share, consider why before you hand out too much personal information. Don't get angry when you should be taking care of business. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take the initiative to get things done before someone complains. Once you have your responsibilities behind you, it will be easier to do your own thing. A personal change will give you a mental boost. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Someone you've worked with in the past will offer good information. Network or get involved in a creative union that will encourage you to use your talents and expand your interests and outlets. A give-and-take situation looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Learn from past mistakes and be ready to start anew. A change to the way you handle money will encourage you to save more and stress less. Being realistic in your expectations will alleviate disappointment. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Get your money matters in order. Preparing your tax return or discussing your options with someone who has more experience will save you money. A creative approach to finances, negotiations and health will serve you well. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Listen carefully. What someone says may confuse you if the words used are misleading. Don't take anyone's word as gospel. If you want concrete answers, you should ask direct questions. Personal change is highlighted. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Use your flowery rhetoric to entice others to help out. You'll accomplish plenty if you work in unison with someone who is on the same page as you. A monetary gain is apparent if you use your imagination. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, practical and hardworking. You are progressive and steadfast.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7	8			4			3	2
			2		3			
2								1
	9						8	
5				3				4
	3						2	
1								5
			1		8			
3	4			9			6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	5	9	2	3	8	4	7	6
2	3	8	7	6	4	9	5	1
6	4	7	1	5	9	8	2	3
4	8	1	5	2	7	6	3	9
5	2	6	8	9	3	1	4	7
9	7	3	6	4	1	2	8	5
7	6	5	4	1	2	3	9	8
8	9	4	3	7	6	5	1	2
3	1	2	9	8	5	7	6	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA Solution: 12 letters

R	E	N	E	E	R	G	I	R	A	R	D	S	F	W
E	E	E	L	S	I	E	U	Q	S	E	R	P	A	A
K	N	V	W	A	T	E	R	F	O	R	D	R	I	T
A	I	Y	I	F	L	A	G	S	E	O	N	I	R	T
B	A	B	A	L	H	H	E	E	I	E	Z	N	V	S
I	G	R	O	W	O	L	M	F	R	E	D	G	I	B
L	A	I	P	R	K	A	T	T	N	I	L	F	E	U
E	R	G	S	C	D	H	P	E	S	O	J	I	W	R
T	A	E	R	L	E	E	Y	T	I	C	M	E	G	G
N	C	E	A	A	R	K	E	E	R	C	L	L	I	M
I	E	W	T	R	E	C	O	N	C	O	R	D	A	C
K	I	E	Y	R	E	B	M	E	H	C	S	T	M	K
O	R	Y	I	E	C	N	E	R	W	A	L	A	I	E
F	W	E	S	L	E	Y	V	I	L	L	E	R	T	A
F	U	E	O	B	E	L	A	K	E	C	I	T	Y	N

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Amity, Art, Baker, Biletnikoff, Brig, Concord, Elk Creek, Erie, Fairview, Flint, Fred, Gem City, Girard, Greene, Grow, Horse, Joseph, Lake City, Lawrence, LeBoeuf, McKean, Millcreek, Niagara, Oliver, Perry, Presque Isle, Schember, Springfield, Theater, Waldameer, Warner, Waterford, Wattsburg, Wayne, Wesleyville, Zoo

Yesterday's Answer: Baseball

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

2 Heavy Equipment Operator, 1 year experience required, $7.25 per hour. Apply at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman III.

CEMENT LABORER

Cement handling equipment experience preferred.
Will train motivated individuals.
Wages - $8.25 per hour

Apply in person at
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Tel: 670 322-3333

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) All-around Beautician

Please submit application to:
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Salon & Spa
1st floor, MHIl Building, Gualo Rai
Tel. #: 670-233-1217

Stead Corp.
dba Saipan Food Express
WANTED
2 Food Preparation Server
with experience preferred.
Email Resume to:
elm2730@gmail.com

PKCL ENTERPRISES

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Building Maintenance Repairer (1)
High School graduate or equivalent, 5 years work experience in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, masonry, and various other construction and repair work. $7.05-$7.25/hour

Grounds Maintenance (1)
High School graduate or equivalent with 5 years work experience. Must be honest and trustworthy. Works flexible hours. $7.05-$7.25/hour

Send resume to PKCL ENTERPRISES, P.O. Box 501957, Saipan MP 96950

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MERARCY T. DAYRIT, Petitioner] FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0023
vs.] **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
ANTHONY BRANTLEY, Respondent,]

TO THE ABOVE RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2821, Box 10002 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to he Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2018.

/s/_____
Deputy Clerk of Court

DONN DUNLOP
Is looking to hire
2 Housekeeping/Janitorial
2 All Around Maintenance
Interested applicants can drop in their resumes from 9am – 12noon, Mon-Fri, call Donn Dunlop at 483-3456 for appointment.

DONN DUNLOP dba
Dunlop Consulting Services
Is looking to hire
2 Production Helpers
Interested applicants can drop in their resumes from 9am – 12noon, Mon-Fri, call Donn Dunlop at 483-3456 for appointment.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
AMENDED
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-COTA/FTA-070

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 16, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) MEDIUM DUTY ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 15, 2018 AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NAURU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2011

Submission /Closing Date: March 29, 2018 Time: 3:00 p.m.

For: Local Public Relations and Media Services

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority, Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building, Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **February 26, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **March 29, 2018**, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **March 29, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on March 15, 2018.**

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857
Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **March 29, 2018** Closing Date: **April 12, 2018**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1.	**COMPLIANCE AGENT**	Compliance	$32,000 - $37,000	CCC-2018-A
2.	**PERMIT & LICENSING CLERK**	Permit & Licensing	$15,800 - $19,800	CCC-2018-B

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Positions:** These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56 & P.L. 19-24.

Requirements:

A. Completed CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
B. **Resume** with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. **Police Clearance** (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette LG. Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at **info@cnmicasinocommission.com.** Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

WHATZIT Solution: Cut out the middle man

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individual with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified,
U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

(1) RESTAURANT MANAGER

Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required. Minimum of two (2) years previous F&B Leadership experience required. Minimum of two (2) years of Banquet leadership role required. Previous experience in a first-class, medium to large resort preferred. This position monitors the daily operations of each restaurant function to ensure a positive guest experience and will profitably manage the overall operations of the restaurants. Will manage all service aspects of food and beverage functions in accordance with the policies of the hotel. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be knowledgeable of banquet set-ups, policies and procedures. Must have experience in budgeting and managing banquet operations. Must be able to successfully coordinate staff and resources in high volume, time sensitive environment. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holiday.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, April 12th, 2018.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk
by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$15**	**$30**
• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$45**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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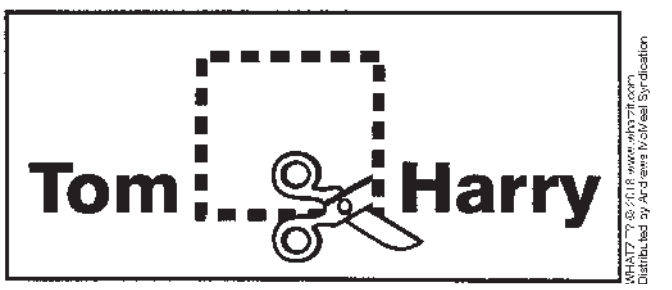
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

NFL owners approve simplified catch language

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Maybe it's too late for Jesse James and the Steelers or Zach Miller and the Bears.

No matter, the NFL has a simplified catch rule designed to eliminate confusion—and, the league hopes, controversy—about receptions.

Team owners unanimously approved the new language Tuesday, with basically three elements defining a catch: having control of the ball; getting two feet down or another body part; making a football move, such as taking a third step or extending the ball.

"We wanted to simplify and provide clarity," Pittsburgh coach and longtime competition committee member Mike Tomlin said. "It was time to do so after we got caught up in language that didn't do that. The language was obscure and confusing."

The committee cited overturned receptions by tight ends James and Miller last season among the dozens of plays they reviewed "dozens of times," according to committee chairman Rick McKay, president of the Atlanta Falcons.

The James call was particularly impactful because the Steelers wound up losing to New England in a December game that determined homefield advantage for the playoffs. The Patriots got it and wound up in the Super Bowl. Pittsburgh lost its first postseason game to Jacksonville.

Just as infamous were negated catches by Dez Bryant of the Cowboys in a 2015 playoff game at Green Bay, and Calvin Johnson of the Lions in 2010 against the Bears.

"I think the third step recommendation was excellent," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "It cleans up a majority of the (catches) that were in question. The old rule was so technical. We're better off today than in the past."

AP
Running back Saquon Barkley (26) catches a football during Penn State NFL football Pro Day in State College, Pa., Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Added Tom Coughlin, the Jaguars' top executive:

"First of all, simplicity is the key. I think this is a fan-driven concept here because a lot of people have no idea why was this thing called that way and why was the next one not called that way. ... I think we've cleaned up a lot of that, and that will get the fans more engrossed in the game. It's going to be much easier for them to understand what is and what isn't."

Late Tuesday, the owners rewrote the rule on using the helmet, making it a 15-yard penalty for any player to lower his head to initiate any hit with the helmet.

McKay called it "a significant change," noting that it was a "technique too dangerous for the player doing it and the player being hit."

McKay said the tackle made by the Steelers' Ryan Shazier last season that resulted in the linebacker suffering a spinal injury—Shazier underwent spinal stabilization surgery two days later—was not the impetus for the change. But it was an example of what needs to be eliminated from the game.

"This one technique, we saw so many hits when a player lowered his head and delivered a hit and either hurt himself or the player he was hitting," McKay said. "It was time for a change of this magnitude."

While the offender could be disqualified, owners did not call for an automatic ejection on such a play—at least not yet. In college football, when a player is penalized for targeting and a replay review affirms it, he is ejected.

Also approved Tuesday was making permanent spotting the ball at the 25-yard line after a touchback on a kickoff; allowing players on injured reserve to be traded; and authorizing a designated member of the officiating department to instruct on-field game officials to eject a player for a flagrant non-football act when a foul for that act is called on the field.

Withdrawn by the Jets was a proposal to limit defensive pass interference to 15 yards, the penalty in college, except for egregious incidents. The competition committee was not in favor of such a change, but McKay and football operations chief Troy Vincent said the idea has "some momentum." It is likely to come up again in future meetings.

Tabled was a proposal to allow an assistant coach whose team is still playing in the postseason to sign a contract to become head coach elsewhere. That's been dubbed the "Josh McDaniels Rule" after the Patriots offensive coordinator agreed to become the Colts coach in January, then reneged and returned to New England soon after the Super Bowl.

That suggestion also is expected to come up at future meetings, beginning in May at the Atlanta owners get-together.

Also tabled was whether to allow video on sideline Surface tablets that teams use now to view photos. McKay said the voters weren't there to pass it.

On-field officials supported having a member of the staff in New York calling for an ejection in certain blatant circumstances that involve non-football acts such as fighting. They cited the difficulty of determining the culprits in a fight or other such situations.

Masters has smallest field in 21 years

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—The Masters is assured its smallest field in 21 years with no more than 87 players.

U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka notified Augusta National on Monday he would not be able to compete as he recovers from a left wrist injury. Earlier in the day, Cameron Smith of Australia was among four players added to the field from the top 50 in the world ranking published one week before the Masters.

Also getting in through the world ranking were Satoshi Kodaira of Japan, Dylan Frittelli of South Africa and Chez Reavie, the first American since 2012 to earn a Masters invitation through the final ranking cutoff.

That brings the field to 86 who are expected to play. One spot is available to this week's Houston Open winner if he is not already eligible.

The Masters had 86 players in 1997, the year Tiger Woods won his first Masters by 12 shots.

Meanwhile, even as azaleas and dogwoods are blooming, it's worth noting The Players Championship is six weeks away. That's how much time the PGA Tour has remaining to put the finishing touches on a major shift in the golf calendar.

Commissioner Jay Monahan has said his goal is to announce the 2018-19 schedule at The Players the second full week in May. That might sound ambitious, but the fall, winter and spring portions of the schedule have come together.

The biggest change is the PGA Championship moving from August to May, with The Players going to March and the FedEx Cup ending on Labor Day right before the start of the NFL season. There remain sponsorship holes to solve in Texas (Houston, Colonial) and a few moving parts with the FedEx St. Jude Classic taking over as a World Golf Championship for Firestone.

The start of 2019 should look familiar—two stops in Hawaii, the California desert, Torrey Pines, Phoenix, Pebble Beach and Riviera. The Mexico Championship would follow Los Angeles. That means the PGA Tour will have an uninterrupted Florida swing again—the Honda Classic, Arnold Palmer Invitational, The Players Championship and the Valspar Championship on March 21-24 (the tournament already has posted its dates).

Then it's off to Texas for the Dell Technologies Match Play in Austin and the Valero Texas Open in San Antonio, which replaces Houston as the pre-Masters stop.

As for the moving parts?

The PGA Championship will be May 16-19 at Bethpage Black in 2019, which is certain to disrupt the Texas swing.

Officials get glimpse of Tokyo 2020 venues

TOKYO (AP)—A dozen national Olympic committees have been given a quick look at Tokyo's venue preparations for the 2020 Summer Games.

Mark England of the British Olympic Association says they were impressed.

"We haven't had many questions to ask the organizing committee because the venues have been absolutely fantastic," England said.

The tour Tuesday marked the committees' first visit to Tokyo since the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics ended last month.

Tokyo's Metropolitan Gymnasium was among the venues. It was built in 1954 and hosted gymnastics for the 1964 Olympics. It will be the venue for table tennis in two years and sits next to the new Olympic stadium, which is under construction.

"In this venue here today—historical and traditional though it is—we can see that it is in absolutely superb condition," England said.

Tokyo's use of existing venues will delight the International Olympic Committee, which has been criticized when cities have built "white elephant" sports venues.

The most recent Olympics in Rio de Janeiro left behind a half-dozen venues that are not being adequately utilized.

Rio built a cycling velodrome that has caught fire twice since the Olympics ended two years ago. Several arenas in the Olympic Park are largely vacant, and a newly built golf course has struggled to find players.

"It was obviously more challenging for Brazil because it was the first (Olympics) in South America, so they didn't have that history, tradition of hosting games," England said. "The games were very different in Rio de Janeiro. The two are not comparable. The state of readiness if very, very well advanced in Tokyo."

In addition to Britain, nations on the venue tour included: Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Greece, Guatemala, Serbia, China, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Monaco and Japan.

Clamping down: Wade, Heat stymie Cavs

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade is completely convinced LeBron James is still the best basketball player in the world.

And the Miami Heat accepted the challenge of slowing him down.

Kelly Olynyk scored a game-high 19 points, Wade blocked a pair of shots by James as part of a stifling defensive effort by Miami, and the Heat had little trouble on the way to beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 98-79 on Tuesday night.

Wade finished with four blocks, two of them from behind to thwart James, and afterward the close friends got together and laughed like always.

"That's one thing about us—we don't brag about what we do against each other," James said. "We talk about what we do against everybody else."

Josh Richardson and James Johnson each scored 15 points for Miami, which led 54-34 at halftime and has won 10 of its last 11 home games. Wade finished with 12 against the team he spent part of this season with before getting traded back to Miami.

"We did a great job," Wade said. "One of our best defensive games since I've been here, for sure."

The Heat held Cleveland to a season-low point total, a shocking number when considering the Cavs had scored 120 in each of their previous four games. James finished with 18 points for the Cavaliers, who were without Kevin Love in the second half because of what was initially diagnosed as a loose tooth and then changed to concussion-like symptoms.

Love, who was hurt 1:22 into the game after taking an elbow from Heat center Jordan Mickey, will be evaluated again Wednesday to see if he needs to enter the NBA's concussion protocol.

"What hurt us more was our rotation was in disarray," James said. "We have a great rotation thing down the last few games and for a guy to go down that early it kind of messed that up."

James finished with 18 points for the Cavaliers, whose previous season low for points was 88.

AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) blocks a shot by Cleveland Cavaliers guard Jordan Clarkson (8) in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 27, 2018, in Miami.

Rockets 118, Bulls 86

In Houston, Eric Gordon scored 31 points and tied a career high with eight 3-pointers on a night James Harden sat out to rest, and the Houston Rockets got their 10th straight win with arout of the Chicago Bulls.

Trevor Ariza added 21 points and Chris Paul had 13 points and 10 assists in his return after missing the last three games with a sore hamstring.

The NBA-leading Rockets became the first team since San Antonio in the lockout-shortened 2011-12 season to have three winning streaks of at least 10 games in a season.

Wizards 116, Spurs 106

In Washington, Markieff Morris shot 7 of 7 from the floor for 15 points, Otto Porter Jr. added 14 and Washington beat San Antonio to snap a three-game losing streak.

San Antonio lost for just the second time in eight games but may have been dealt a more serious blow with a left knee injury to star LaMarcus Aldridge, who was the game's leading scorer with 13 points before he limped off late in the second quarter. Aldridge is the biggest reason the Spurs have stayed afloat without Kawhi Leonard most of this season.

Pacers 92, Warriors 81

In Oakland, Injury-plagued Golden State again lacked the firepower to finish off an opponent, and Victor Oladipo scored 24 points in Indiana's victory over the defending champions.

Nick Young scored 12 points as Golden State, playing without its four All-Stars for a second straight game, lost back-to-back contests for only the ninth time during coach Steve Kerr's four seasons.

Draymond Green had been set to return but was still feeling ill, while NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant had hoped to play Tuesday but is likely to be back from a rib injury Thursday against Milwaukee.

Trail Blazers 107, Pelicans 103

In New Orleans, Damian Lillard scored 20 of his 41 points in the fourth quarter, and Portland beat New Orleans.

Lillard hit his first six shots of the fourth quarter, including two 3-pointers, to push Portland into its first lead since early in the first quarter. He made two free throws with 1.3 seconds left to seal the victory.

Anthony Davis had 36 points, 14 rebounds and six blocks for the Pelicans, with 22 points coming after he rolled his right ankle and briefly came out of the game with 5:15 left in the third quarter.

Raptors 114, Nuggets 110

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan, Jonas Valanciunas, and Fred VanVleet each scored 15 points and Toronto beat Denver.

Jakob Poeltl scored all of his 12 points in the fourth quarter, including eight straight for Toronto at one stretch.

Serge Ibaka had 13 points, Pascal Siakam 12 and Kyle Lowry 11 as the Raptors improved to 31-7 at home.

Toronto, which lost to the Clippers on Sunday, avoided what would have been its fifth two-game losing streak.

Clippers 105, Bucks 98

In Los Angeles, Tobias Harris scored 19 points, DeAndre Jordan had a double-double and Los Angeles rallied after blowing a 16-point lead to beat Milwaukee and boost its playoff hopes.

The Clippers hit six 3-pointers in the fourth, when they were down by five and launched a 13-0 run to go back in front 96-88.

They made 3-pointers on four straight possessions—by four different players—for a 105-96 lead.

Jordan had 12 points and 16 rebounds, and Lou Williams added 16 points off the bench.

Mavericks 103, Kings 97

In Sacramento, Harrison Barnes had 20 points, six assists and five rebounds, and Dallas beat Sacramento while protesters forced a lockdown of Golden1 Center for the second time in six days.

Dennis Smith Jr. added 19 points and six assists in his second game back from an ankle injury. Doug McDermott scored seven of his 15 points during a big run in the fourth quarter, and Aaron Harrison and Johnathan Motley had 10 points apiece to help Dallas end a five-game losing streak.

Outside the arena, demonstrators gathered to protest the March 18 fatal police shooting of Stephon Clark, an unarmed 22-year-old black man who was in his grandparents' backyard.

Top college player often not top NBA prospect

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Duke's Marvin Bagley III, Arizona's Deandre Ayton and Oklahoma's Trae Young are certain high NBA draft picks, one of them could easily be the top overall selection.

Still, that doesn't make any of them the best player in college basketball.

That's a different question.

Villanova's Jalen Brunson is a leading candidate to be anointed the national college player of the year.

While several freshmen will likely hear their names called as one of the top-five draft picks, Brunson has been the man in college. And Brunson has NBA talent at the helm of a team playing in this weekend's Final Four in San Antonio, but recently there seems to be a disconnect between college production and NBA potential.

"I think it's hard for players to figure that out," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "Like, `Hey, I'm one of the best players in college basketball, how can I not be a first-round draft pick?' There's just a big difference between what the NBA guys think they want to use draft picks for and who's the best player in college basketball."

For years, those two things seemed intertwined.

Ten of the 19 different players named The Associated Press college player of the year between 1980-2000 -- Virginia's Ralph Sampson won three times—became the No. 1 overall NBA draft pick, including Sampson, Georgetown's Patrick Ewing, Navy's David Robinson, LSU's Shaquille O'Neal and Wake Forest's Tim Duncan.

But in the years since, only three players—Utah's Andrew Bogut in 2005, Oklahoma's Blake Griffin in 2009 and Kentucky's Anthony Davis in 2012—have been AP player of the year and the No. 1 overall pick. Last year's AP winner, Frank Mason III of Kansas, was a second-round draft pick.

This year's leading contenders include possible No. 1 draft picks in Ayton and Bagley, along with a potential top-10 pick in Young, while Brunson could be a second-rounder like Mason.

The shorter college careers of top players can explain some of that change. Formerly, they routinely developed over three- and four-year stays that offered a clearer picture of player potential.

Now, as top prospects stick around only a year or maybe two, that evaluation has changed.

"There's less of an emphasis on college productivity," said ESPN analyst Dino Gaudio, Wake Forest's head coach from 2007-10. "Is it a factor? Sure it is, but it is less of a factor than what it was many years ago because of the one-and-done (rule) and how early kids can come out.

"I think the word is projection. I think that's the biggest word."

Brunson is still playing in the Final Four as the top-seeded Wildcats pursue a second national championship in three seasons. Bagley helped the Blue Devils reach the Elite Eight before losing in overtime to Kansas, while Ayton and Young both suffered first-round losses.

The AP named its All-America team Tuesday, with Brunson and Kansas' Devonte' Graham joining Bagley, Ayton and Young on the first team. The AP names its player of the year Thursday in San Antonio.

Alamo outclasses 8th Division

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Alamo Rent A Car topped 8th Division, 69-64, during the first game in the 2018 Civic Center Inter-color Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center court.

Alamo had a 7-2 windup in the final one minute of the match to take the 5-point victory.

8th Division threatened Alamo, 59-62, after Joseph Torres' basket. However, Pelisamen countered with a fastbreak shot off a feed from James Kintz, while John Bayking made all his four free throws in the homestretch to foil 8th Division's comeback bid. The losing squad was held to one field goal off Maverick Itibus' layup after cutting the deficit to three and missed a couple of 3-point attempts to fall short in the end.

Pelisamen was one of the four Alamo players to score in twin digits in their close win after firing 15—10 of them came in the fourth canto. Kintz led Alamo with his 18 markers, while Bayking and Carl Aldan added 10 each.

Torres paced 8th Division with his 22 points, while Patrick Abugapal contributed 10.

Chowtime 51, Batang 29

Chowtime crushed Batang in last Friday's match.

Chowtime held Batang to single-digit scoring in the first two quarters and the fourth to cruise to victory.

Batang, which was still in the game at the break despite struggling on offense behind by only 8, 12-20, made only four field goals in the third period. Chowtime more than doubled its opponent's output, 24-10, to open a 44-22 advantage. Chowtime never looked back, as Batang was limited to 7 markers in the final canto.

8th Division 69, Geotesting 53

8th Division eased past Geotesting in last Thursday game.

Itibus and Torres scored 15 points each and Rodney Catalla added 12 to lift 8th Division to the double-digit winning margin.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Alamo's Freddie Pelisamen, center, dribbles past 8th Division's Amor Zapata, right, and tries to do the same against Maverick Itibus during the fourth quarter of their game in the Civic Center caging last Saturday.

Itibus and company led from start to finish and countered E.J. Abejo's three triples in the fourth quarter to keep its safe distance. Torres, Catalla, and Romy Bernardo drilled one trey apiece to offset Abejo's three conversions from downtown.

Pajarillaga is FilTaga's March Ace

Albert Pajarillaga won the third monthly Ace tournament of the FilTaga Golf Association held last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Pajarillaga shot 48s on the front and back nines for a gross score of 86 and with a 16 handicap, he earned a 70 net to beat closest pursuer Mike Cruz, who finished with a 76 (49-43, 16 handicap).

Pajarillaga now joins Jess Yumul (January) and Dan Ganacias (February) as monthly champions and got one of the slots to the group's year-end tournament.

Ten other FilTaga members joined the monthly tournament with Ronnie Santos coming in at third with a net 78 (50-42, 14 handicap).

Ruben Avendano (79), Edgar Abalos (80), John Matsumoto and Manny Po (81), Raffy Piamonte (82), Ganacias and Ernie Lopez (83), Yumul (85), and Paul Bea (88) were the other FIlTaga members that competed in last weekend's event.

Bea earned the closest to the pin honors at No. 3, while no one won at No. 8. Pajarillaga was the closest to the pin winner at No. 12 , while Avendano duplicated the feat at No. 15. ***(Jon Perez)***

Ohtani to make MLB pitching debut for Angels

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Two-way sensation Shohei Ohtani is scheduled to make his major league pitching debut Sunday when he starts for the Los Angeles Angels in their fourth game of the season at Oakland.

The much-hyped Japanese star is expected to be the team's designated hitter in at least one of the first three games, but it's unclear if that will happen in the opener on Thursday.

"We haven't determined our opening-day lineup yet," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said Tuesday night.

The 23-year-old Ohtani, who struggled in spring training, was told after Tuesday's exhibition game against the Dodgers that he'll pitch Sunday.

Asked what he expects from Ohtani in his first start, Scioscia said: "He's gotten into the mid-80-pitch range and should be able to get over 90 if he's throwing to his capabilities. That's plenty of pitches for him to get deep into the game. We're going to take it one pitch at a time with all of our pitchers."

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in the pool for at least 10 days due to his injuries.

"I will need muscle training and rehabilitation. It will take at least two weeks for my cuts to heal and probably another one month for the other bruises. I will be having an MRI today [yesterday]."

Shinuzaki added that aside from returning for the 2019 Tagaman, he also plans to join the Ironman 70.3 Saipan and Hell of the Marianas, and next year's Saipan Marathon.

"I would like to join other sports events on Saipan. I was very unlucky last weekend and I feel sorry for that, but I am very pleased that I was able to participate in the Tagaman Triathlon. It was wonderful meeting new people on Saipan. I want to return to Saipan and see its rich nature and beautiful sea," the Japanese pro said.

Shinozaki is an eight-time Nijima Triathlon champion with his last win coming in last year. He also ruled the 2016 Goto Nagasaki National Triathlon and the 2016 Tonunoshima Triathlon, and finished fifth (2014) and fourth (2015) overall in the Ironman Japan. The Japanese was also ranked No. 13 out of the more 30 pros in last year's Ironman 70.3 Taiwan in Taitung, completing the race in 4:15:46. He competed, too in Ironman Taiwan in Penghu Island and came in at 38th overall after recording 11:25:14.

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4 with two runs and an RBI for the Braves, while Alvarez also batted 2-for-4 and scored twice.

Falcons 12, Comets 3

Pedro Maratita had an inside-the-park home run to lead the Falcons to victory.

His homer was made in the first inning where the Falcons registered five runs. Maratita went on to have a 3-for-4 performance at the plate. He had three runs and earned a triple to go with his four RBIs.

Jed Norita also recorded a triple, scored one run, and got an RBI after going 3-for-4 at bat, while Arby Yaguel went 2-for-3 with one run scored and an RBI single in the fourth inning of the shortened game. The match was played for only five innings.

Jericho Jones tossed three shutout innings for the Falcons, allowing one hit—a triple to Davince Mendiola in the second inning. The Falcons ace had four strikeouts and one walk.

Isaiah Teigita pitched the last two innings for the defending champions, surrendering one earned run on three hits and one walk.

TSUNAMI

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the podium after Batallones earned a division-high 88 points and Fiona Regan recorded the third-best 51 points. SSC's Savita Sikkel shared the No. 3 spot with Regan, while the former's teammate Kaithlynn Chavez finished second after registering 72 points.

Sophia Tarr (30), Julie Ann Chavez (27), Cassie Regan (18), Sakura Hara (9), Elengoi Gibbons (7), Nagisa Litulumar (5), Kessie Adams (4), Arwen Bartolata (1), and Cortni Brown (1) rounded out the participants in the girls 9 to 10 division.

In the girls U8 age group, Sari bested four other competitors after logging 61 points. She was way ahead of SSC's Kaya Braxton (16), Katie Manglona (4), and Allie Brasseel (11), and Tsunami Saipan teammate Kim Elin (11).

In the girls 11 to 12, Ashley led Tsunami Saipan's 1-2-3 finish after she scored 90 points or won all her nine events in this year's tournament. Nanaka Watanabe (79) and Asaka Litulumar (66) joined Ashley in the Top 3. Palau's Klei Andrei's missed the podium as she settled for fourth place after getting 50 points—the same output Tsunami Saipan's Shoko Litulumar posted. Ten other swimmers raced in the division.

In the girls 13 to 14 class, seven fought for the high-point award with Aika narrowly beating Tsunami Guam's Risa Hendrix for the top honors. Watanabe delivered 77 points, just one marker ahead of Hendrix. SSC's Sophia Gauran completed the Top 3 after tallying 71 points, while Pohnpei's Kestra Kihleng (64) and Nicole Adams (48), Andersen Marlins' Ally Giovencio (41), and Palau's Lolmei Uong (36) were ranked No. 4 to 7, respectively.

DOCOMO

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ing Independently; 670 Sonics Basketball Association; Dan Dan Middle School STEM and Garden Club; and Saipan Paddling Club.

Hyatt Regency Saipan thanked Docomo Pacific for their continued support in the community through the annual golf tournament.

At Hyatt, the belief in fulfilling our purpose first begins with caring for others so that they can be their best, at work and beyond. That is the core purpose of the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic—there is no better place to care for others than within our own community.

"In the industry of hospitality, we genuinely care about people and their lives and in continuing that spirit of enhancing the lives of others, we are proud to positively impact our community through our charity golf classic. With the generosity of local businesses like Docomo Pacific, we are able to continue to host our annual charity golf classic. On behalf of the hotel, I extend our gratitude to Docomo Pacific' s continued support for our golf tournament," Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa said.

"Giving back is one of the most important core values Docomo Pacific shares with Hyatt Regency Saipan and we are thrilled to once again be a part of a great event that is committed to giving back to its community and people," Docomo Pacific manager Dino Manning said.

Local clubs hold the fort vs ZES FC

Four local football clubs challenged the visiting ZES FC of Guam in a series of futsal matches last Sunday at the artificial turf at the TSL Sports Complex.

TanHoldings FC was the first to duel ZES FC 1 and rose to the occasion following a 3-1 victory. Three different players scored for TanHoldings to spoil ZES FC's debut. The winning club drew goals from Anthony Bergancia, Ariel Narvaez, and Angelo Pulido. E.J. Manibusan made the lone goal for ZES FC 1.

Kanoa FC then picked up where TanHoldings left off, beating ZES FC 2, 3-1. Kanoa went at it right from the get-go after gaining a pair of goals from Markus Toves and one from Daniel Mar Pablo in the first half, while Riley Rama delivered the only goal for ZES 2.

Up next was the match between Southern United and ZES 1 with the latter taking an 8-0 triumph behind the hat-trick of Evan Flanajen.

For the fourth game in the series, it was Matansa versus ZES 2 and the local club held its own against the visiting team, forcing a draw, 1-1. J.R. Lopez drilled the equalizer, while Gavin Baker scored for ZES 2.

ZES 1 returned to the pitch and was handed a beating by Kanoa, 7-2. Toves anchored the demolition with his four goals, Devin Propst added two, and Pablo chipped in one. Raif Sablan knocked in one goal for ZES 1, which got its second goal off Kanoa's miscue.

TanHoldings then duplicated Kanoa's pair of wins when the former shut down ZES 2, 3-0. Bergancia made two goals in the victory, while Kaithlynn Chavez registered one.

The loss versus TanHoldings was ZES FC's last, as the visiting group closed out the series with a 3-2 win over Matansa and 4-1 triumph against Southern United.

Meanwhile, ZES FC just won Game 1 of the finals against Kanoa (via penalty shootout) in the 2018 Spring Break Friendlies last Tuesday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Kanoa had a twice-to-beat advantage in the title showdown after sweeping the preliminary games, including a 4-0 crushing of ZES FC. The deciding Game 2 was not played due to time constraints and organizers will still coordinate with the opposing clubs to resolve the finale.

TanHoldings and Matansa also played in the tournament and held their own against ZES FC, showing much improved skills and team chemistry against the off-island squad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kanoa Football Club players stay close on defense against a ZES FC striker during their game in the 2018 Spring Break Friendlies last Tuesday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Docomo Pacific supports Hyatt golf tournament

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic received $4, 500 worth of cash and in-kind donation from platinum sponsor Docomo Pacific.

Docomo Pacific's donation includes two brand new iPhone 8 (128GB), two beach chairs, and two sun shades and these will be used as prizes for the April 7 tournament that will be held at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

The donation from Docomo Pacific will also aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNM; CNMI Salvation Army; CNMI Center for Liv-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Docomo Pacific account executive William Grow, Hyatt Regency Saipan Food and Beverage assistant director Seiji Shindo, Docomo Pacific general manager Dino Manning, Hyatt Regency Saipan Food and Beverage director Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef Zenn Tomokane, Docomo Pacific sales manager Joseph Torres, and Docomo Pacific account executive Brent Deleon Guerrero pose for a group photo after the donation turnover ceremony.

NFL owners approve simplified catch language

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Tsunami Saipan bets stand out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan earned the most first place finishes in the high-point competition in last weekend's 2018 SSC International Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Five Tsunami Saipan members topped their respective age groups for a mission accomplished in the March 23 to 24 tournament hosted by Saipan Swim Club. In the girls division, four Tsunami Saipan swimmers were ranked first with Sari Barman ruling the girls U8, Maria Batallones in the 9 to 10 age group, Ashley Dangol in the 11 to 12, and Aika Watanabe in the 13 to 14 class. Ashley's brother, Aasish, was the lone Tsunami Saipan swimmer to place first in the boys division.

Actually, Aasish tied Tsunami Guam's Luke Leon Guerrero for the No. 1 ranking in the boys 9 to 10 as the two swimmers collected 80 points each. Points were given to swimmers based on how they finished each race. Nine points are awarded to the top finisher and 7 to 1 for the No. 2 to No. 8. Kouki Watanabe joined his Tsunami Saipan teammate in the podium after placing second, as the former tallied 60 points, while Palau's Jion Hosei rounded out the Top 3 after getting 43 markers.

Tsunami Saipan's Shuman Barman (38), Palau's Jace Borja (15), and SSC's Takeru Jim (26), Wataru Kadokura (16), and Christian Newman (3) were the other competitors in the boys 9 to 10 class.

In the girls 9 to 10, Tsunami Saipan also had two swimmers making it to

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center member races in the 100m breaststroke event during the 2018 SSC International Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Braves, Falcons beat Senior League foes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Braves and Falcons defeated their respective opponents in the continuation of games in the Senior League division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Braves completed a 9-3 decision over the Fielders in the first game.

Lovel Iguel pitched for six innings for the Braves, allowing six hits with eight strikeouts and three walks. The Fielders' one run in the second, scored by Trevon Lieto on an error, was unearned.

Josenio Alvarez closed out for the Braves, giving up one hit, fanning two, and walking one to complete the win.

Tyrese Camacho went 2-for-

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JON PEREZ
Braves pitcher Lovel Iguel checks the runner on first base before throwing to the plate during their game against the Fielders in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Despite crash, Japanese pro vows Tagaman comeback

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Japanese Yu Shinozaki vowed he will be stronger, wiser, and more cautious when he returns for Tagaman Triathlon next year, eyeing to finish the Half Ironman distance race and win the men's championship.

The Japanese was involved in a collision during the bike leg of the race last Saturday and was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center to have his injuries treated.

"Of course I will be back next year. I would get stronger and I will be returning to become the champion," Shinozaki, who received three stitches on his right knee and sustained cuts, bruises, and contusion from the accident, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

He left Saipan Monday afternoon and is now back home in Kashiwa City in Chiba Prefecture, resting and enjoying the company of his wife Akiko Ayuzawa—who is also a triathlete—and their two kids.

JON PEREZ
Japan's Yu Shinozaki attends the awards banquet of the 29th Tagaman 70.3 Triathlon at Kanoa Resort's Barefoot Bar after being treated at the Commonwealth Health Center following a collision during the bike leg of last Saturday's race.

"I'm fine now. I'm home. The wound is getting better, but I am still walking slowly and feeling a little bit of pain. The most painful part of my body is my thighs," added the 24-year-old professional triathlete.

Shinozaki, who was leading the race before the accident, said a car suddenly appeared in front, causing him to hit the side of the vehicle. The car also hit his police escort, who was riding a motorcycle. The Japanese said that the siren and emergency lights of the motorcycle of his police escort were on and the officer was also honking his horn while driving to warn incoming cars. The car involved in the accident, according to the Department of Public Safety report, first hit the police motorcycle then Shinozaki—who was breezing past the intersection in Beach Road and Chalan Hagoi near Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

"I would need some time off to fully recover from my injuries. I would get better soon, but I plan to join a race next month, the Miyakojima Triathlon on April 22. I want to participate, but possibly if I'm already in good condition," said Shinozaki.

He said the doctor advised him not to get

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